BUSINESS / B1

Peso, stock markets slump amid fears of US recession

ACROSS / A15

2 more Abus arrested in Palawan, linked to 9/11 terror plot

SPORTS / A26

Federer wins 4th straight US Open title

ENTERTAINMENT / D1

Dollywood: Lea's wake-up call for show folks

It's hello, goodbye for traveling GMA

WOW! DAMI NYANG LAKWATSA!

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

SYDNEY (VIA PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo will make whirlwind trips to eight countries in the next few months, including

IT'S HELLO/ A11

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS
Tuesday, September 11, 2007 ★★ 6 sections / Vol. 22 / No. 275 P18 website: www.inquirer.net

Estrada's old gang: Where are they now?

By TJ Burgonio

THEY DRANK AND GAMBLED WITH HIM IN his days of power. But after his downfall in 2001, many of those who belonged to what Joseph Estrada might have called "That Old Gang of Mine" had dropped out of sight, or avoided being seen in his company.

For many of Estrada's harshest critics,

ESTRADA'S/ A8

'I am ready for prison'

Erap says he's not afraid of Sandiganbayan verdict

By Kristine L. Alave, Christian V. Esguerra and Dona Pazzibugan

HIS FAMILY IS PREPARED FOR THE WORST. SO IS JOSEPH Estrada.

"*Hindi ako makikiusap sa kanila. Kahit ilagay nila ako sa Muntinlupa, nakahanda ako* (I will not plead with them. Even if they put me in Muntinlupa, I am ready)," the ousted President said as the nation awaits the Sandiganbayan's promulgation tomorrow of its verdict in the P4-billion plunder case.

The Verdict

Estrada, in a brief interview with reporters, said he was not afraid of the court's ruling.

His son and coaccused in the case, Senate President Pro Tempore Jinggoy Estrada, said the family was ready "for whatever verdict the Sandiganbayan will come out (with)."

"But we're expecting the worst because some reliable sources said there's no way my father will be acquitted even if there's no evidence against him," the senator said. "That's disappointing on our part."

The younger Estrada said the "reliable sources" had tipped off the family on what the Sandiganbayan Special Division's verdict would be.

Jinggoy said that, with respect to his case, "modesty aside, I'm very confident I'll be acquitted."

He based his optimism on the court's decision in 2003 to grant him bail, an indication in his view that the evidence against him was not strong.

"So there's no reason for the Sandiganbayan to convict me," Jinggoy said.

Despite the Sandiganbayan's order prohibiting him from giving interviews, the former President managed to squeeze in a brief chat with the media during a furlough granted him by the court the other day to allow him to visit his ailing 102-year-old mother in hospital and to spend some time in his Greenhills home.

Either way, Estrada said he was resigned to his fate. He insisted he would not accept a pardon from President Macapagal-Arroyo if the court should convict him, saying pardons were only for the guilty.

If pronounced guilty, Estrada said he was prepared to leave his Tanay estate, where he has been detained, and go to the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

In a press conference, the senior deputy minority leader of the House of Representatives, Roilo Golez, raised the specter—at least as far as the Arroyo administration was concerned—of Estrada becoming an even "bigger political player" in case of an acquittal.

"We'll have a political giant on the loose," Golez said. "He will be moving around, attending forums, press conferences, delivering speeches. He is a major player now. He will be a bigger

I AM READY/ A8

JOSEPH EJERCITO ESTRADA
CC # 26558
25 April 2001

WHAT fate awaits Joseph Estrada? The ousted President is shown in this 2001 file photo taken shortly after his arrest on plunder charges.

TIMELINE

THE ESTRADA TRIAL

2001

April 4—The Ombudsman files a P4.097-billion plunder case against former President Joseph Estrada in the Sandiganbayan and minor charges of perjury for allegedly underreporting his assets in 1999 and for illegal use of alias.

The plunder case is composed of four charges—acceptance of P545 million in protection money from illegal gambling ("jueteng"), misappropriation of P130 million in tobacco excise taxes, collection of a P189.7-million commission from the sale of the shares of Belle Corp. (a real estate firm), and amassing and depositing P3,233,104,173.17 in a bank account under the name Jose Velarde.

Estrada's coaccused are his son Jinggoy Estrada, Charlie "Atong" Ang, Edward Serapio, Yolanda Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, Eleuterio Tan (a.k.a. Eleuterio Ramas Tan or Mr. Uy) and Jane Doe (a.k.a. Delia Rajas). Businessman Jaime Dichaves is later added as a respondent.

April 25—The Sandiganbayan issues a warrant to arrest Estrada for allegedly

THE ESTRADA TRIAL/ A9

PNP braces for pro-Erap rallies

By the Inquirer Staff

SUPPORTERS OF FORMER PRESIDENT Joseph Estrada have secured permits to hold demonstrations in Metro Manila tomorrow but are banned from marching on Mendiola bridge near Malacañang or entering St. Peter's Church near the Sandiganbayan building in Quezon City.

Organizers yesterday said they expected to mobilize up to 5,000 Estrada sympathizers for the promulgation of the Sandiganbayan decision in his P4-billion plunder case.

Focal point of the demonstration will be the intersection of Ayala Avenue and Paseo de Roxas in the heart of Makati City under the control of Mayor Jejomar Binay, the United Opposition president.

Rally permits have also been issued in Quezon City and Manila, but not for Mendiola—now called Chino Roces Bridge—or St. Peter's Church.

The Sandiganbayan area will be secured by a 6,000-strong police force. The Army has committed reinforcements of 2,000 men, officials said.

Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim expressed apprehension that a guilty verdict could spark outrage among Estrada's supporters.

"What really matters is for the truth to prevail," Lim told a Manila Hotel forum. "I believe his six years imprisonment is more than enough. Let's put a closure to this and let's move on for peace and the

PNP OFFICIALS/ A11

JDV son's firm petitions SC for copy of ZTE contract

WHISTLE-BLOWER Jose de Venecia III explains discrepancies in the broadband project proposals between ZTE and his firm, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. REM ZAMORA

By Leila B. Salaverria, Beverly T. Natividad and Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE FILIPINO COMPANY THAT LOST the bid to build the National Broadband Network (NBN) yesterday asked the Supreme Court to compel Malacañang to give it a copy of the $329-million contract won by a Chinese firm.

Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI) sought a temporary restraining order on the implementation of the government's deal with ZTE Corp. while its petition is pending before the tribunal.

The NBN is envisioned to establish a seamless connectivity of landline, cellular and Internet services among all government offices nationwide.

While AHI was asking for a copy of the contract, its cofounder Jose de Venecia III told a forum that the supply contract with ZTE was overpriced by about $130 million to cover "commissions" or kickbacks.

At the forum sponsored by the civil society group, Black and White Movement, De Venecia described Benjamin Abalos Sr., Commission on Elections (Comelec) chair, as appearing to be the "captain" of those who were brokering the ZTE deal.

In a statement, Abalos called De Venecia's actions a "calculated media offensive" and described it as nothing but a deliberate attempt to mislead the public in the truth behind his (De Venecia's) role in the NBN project.

The $329-million contract was signed by Communications Secretary Leandro Mendoza and ZTE vice president Yu Yong on April 21 in Boao, China, in ceremonies witnessed by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Hours later, the Philippine copy of the contract was reported stolen in a hotel in China. It has since been reconstituted.

The deal made headlines recently af-

JDV SON'S / A10

ANTISMUGGLING DRIVE

GMA's men fight over Subic turf

By Tonette Orejas
Inquirer Central Luzon

(Last of two parts)

A-TEAM *Report*
Fernando del Mundo
Chief

SUBIC BAY FREEPORT—GOVERNMENT officials cannot tell, or are silent about, the extent of car smuggling here and the enemies they are battling.

While that is disconcerting enough to the automotive industry, another cause of concern is that these officials are also at odds with one another.

During a visit to this free port in July, President Macapagal-Arroyo called Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) Administrator Armand Arreza and retired Lt. Gen. Jose Calimlim, SBMA senior deputy for operations, to a meeting.

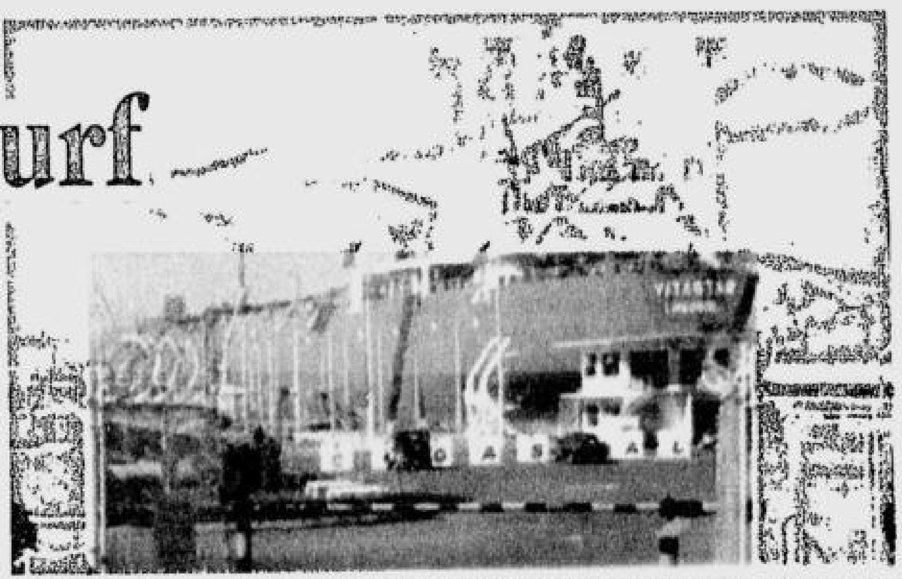
Joined by Trade Secretary Peter Favila, Ms Arroyo talked to the two executives for over an hour on the issue of car and oil smuggling.

Calimlim admits he has differences with Arreza, a protégé of Sen. Richard Gordon, the first SBMA chair.

The meeting was held after Calimlim complained to Ms Arroyo in April that Arreza took him "out of the loop" in the crackdown on smuggling activities. Calimlim joined the SBMA board in October 2004 while Arreza came a year later.

The only other thing that Calimlim

GMA'S MEN/ A10



SUBIC Bay Freeport: Car smuggling persists in the former US military base and officials are blaming one another for the problem.

EZ2
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SUERTRES
Mid-Day 5 2 4 | Evening 6 2 8
(All in exact order)

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Northern Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to at times cloudy with isolated rainshowers or thunderstorms mostly in the afternoon or evening.

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Iloilo/Bacolod	Mostly Cloudy
Baguio	Mostly Cloudy	Roxas	Mostly Cloudy
Tuguegarao	Mostly Cloudy	Cebu	Mostly Cloudy
Laoag	Mostly Cloudy	Tacloban	Mostly Cloudy
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Gen. Santos	Mostly Cloudy
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Zamboanga	Mostly Cloudy
Legazpi	Partly Cloudy	Cagayan de Oro	Mostly Cloudy
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Davao	Mostly Cloudy

COMPILED BY: SCHATZI QUODALA, PDI RESEARCH/09/10/07 SOURCE PAGASA

RP gets military gear from China

$1.2-M worth of engineering equipment for Mindanao dev't

By Nikko Dizon

THE ARMED FORCES OF the Philippines yesterday received $1.2 million (P55.9 million) worth of brand new military engineering equipment from the People's Republic of China which would be used in the government's "humanitarian offensive" in Mindanao's strife-torn provinces.

The equipment included bulldozers and graders to be shipped to Basilan, where President Macapagal-Arroyo had ordered a massive infrastructure development to complement the military offensive against Abu Sayyaf militants.

Chinese military attaché to Manila, Col. Liu Zhongxiang, said the donation symbolized the "good relationship and mutual trust" between the armed forces of the two countries.

He said more military assistance was in the pipeline.

"This military assistance is important... in re-establishing the mutual trust between our two countries," Liu said.

Philippine and Chinese military relations were strained in the past by overlapping claims to the potentially mineral rich Spratly chain of islands in the South China Sea, which had led to small-scale confrontations.

Maj. Gen. Cyrano Austria, the AFP chief of engineers, said the equipment was part of the commitment China made last year to donate machinery to the AFP for its engineering projects.

"True to their promise, they delivered these to us," Austria said.

Austria said the equipment would be distributed among the Philippine Army engineering brigades, the Philippine Air Force engineering wing, and the Philippine Navy construction brigade.

They would be primarily used for "our humanitarian offensive in Basilan, Jolo and the Zamboanga peninsula," he said.

The equipment will be used by the AFP's two engineering battalions in Basilan and Sulu to finish infrastructure projects, particularly the construction of the circumferential road that the government said would enhance business and trade in the provinces.

The AFP engineering battalions arrived in Mindanao over the weekend to implement the government's infrastructure projects in areas where the military's pursuit of Abu Sayyaf bandits had displaced thousands of residents.

Last year, China also donated some $1.2 million worth of bulldozers and graders to the military after the Philippines and China inaugurated annual defense meetings in Manila.

Austria said that for the past two years, China and Korea had been actively supporting the AFP "in our effort to bring about peace and development in our conflict-afflicted barangays."

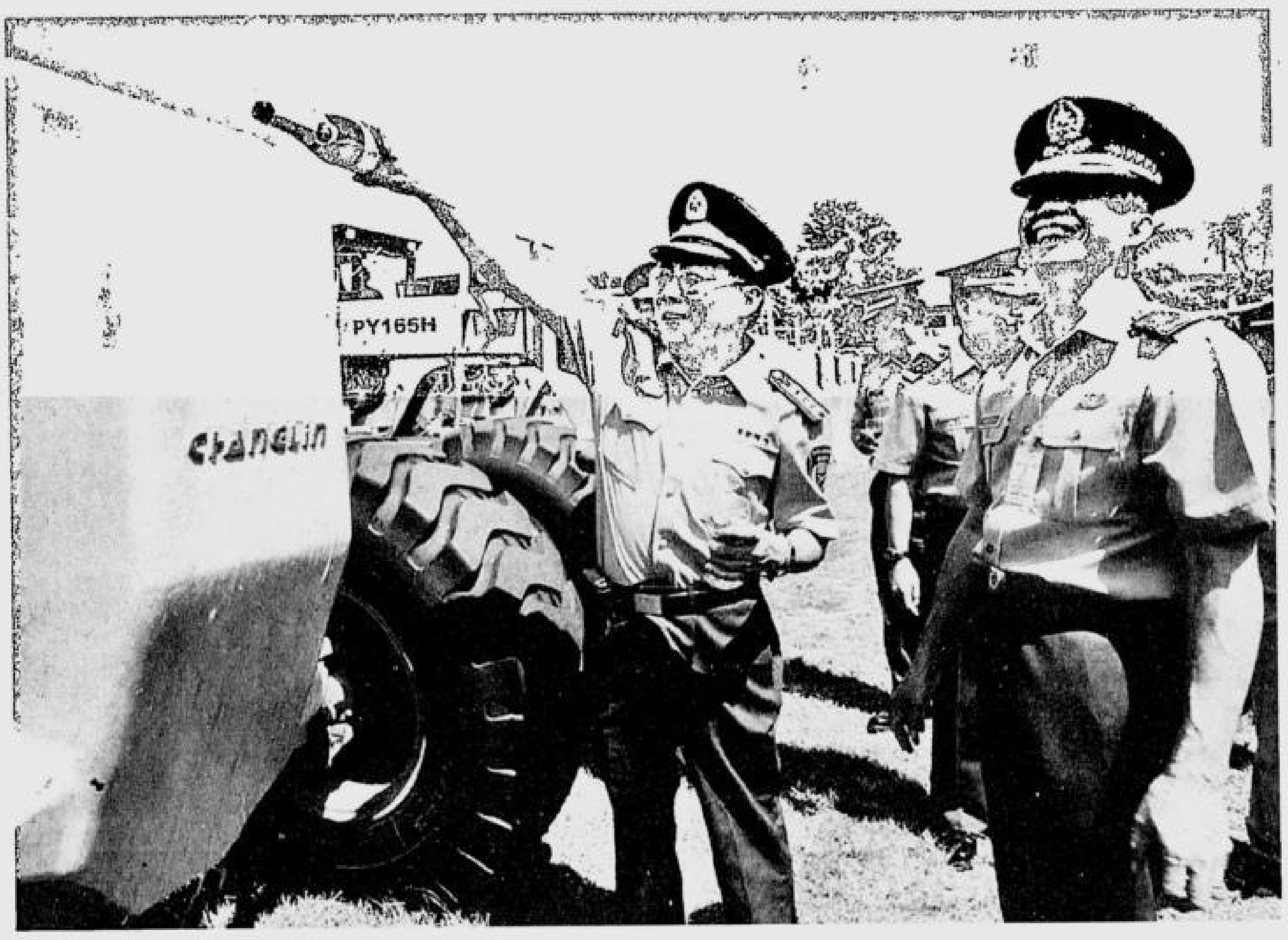
He said Korea had donated 143 assorted vehicles, including military engineering equipment, to the AFP.

Austria said that the United Kingdom also donated military engineering equipment early this year.

He said the AFP still had similar engineering equipment but these were from the Military Assistance Program of the United States in the 1960s and 1970s.

Asked if the AFP was capable of purchasing military engineering equipment on its own instead of having to rely on donations, Austria replied that the military's Capability Upgrade Program was focused more on the "requirements of our fighting troops."

With a report from AFP



SENIOR COL. Liu Zhongxiang, China's defense and armed forces attachè to the Philippines, pours champagne over heavy equipment donated by his country to the Philippines, at Camp Aguinaldo yesterday. Tickled pink at right is Maj. Gen. Cyrano Austria, chief of engineers of the Armed Forces of the Philippines. JOAN BONDOC

DOT: Chinese poised to be top tourists

By Margaux C. Ortiz

CHINA IS PROVING TO BE THE NEWEST treasure trove of tourists for the Philippines.

Tourism Secretary Joseph "Ace" Durano said the Chinese market was the "fastest growing" among the top five sources of tourists in July 2007, recording a 20.6-percent increase over the same month last year.

South Korea, which came in second, reflected a 16.3-percent jump in the number of its tourists to the Philippines in July.

South Korea, however, remained the leading source of tourists for the Philippines, accounting for 22.3 percent of July arrivals, or 62,692 tourists, Durano said in a statement.

Durano said the United States followed closely as the second biggest provider of tourists for the month with 48,560, while Japan, in third place, delivered 34,156 visitors. China and Taiwan came in fourth and fifth, sending 13,304 and 11,325 holiday-makers, respectively.

Hong Kong, Singapore, Canada, Australia and the United Kingdom ranked sixth to 10th. Each of these countries accounted for an average three-percent share in the overall tourist volume, Durano said.

"A total of 281,032 tourists visited the Philippines in July, reflecting an 11.26-percent increase compared to July last year," Durano said.

He said that based on DOT figures, this month's tally had brought the number of visitor arrivals since January to 1.8 million.

According to Durano, "2007 is proving to be a monumental year for the industry as this will be the first time visitor arrivals will breach the 3.1-million mark. The steady upswing over the months can be attributed to the synergy between the private and public sectors [which are] aggressively presenting the best that the Philippines has to offer to both major and emerging markets."

The secretary said the rise in arrivals directly translated to receipts and profit for the country's tourism establishments, such as hotels, resorts, stores, restaurants, entertainment and recreation centers, spas and transport services.

"The challenge for the industry now is to meet the strong demand for more rooms and greater access to more destinations, which we perceive will only intensify in the coming years," Durano said.

He said visitor expenditure had grown an average of 20.11 percent over the last three years, "making the industry one of the economy's top dollar earners."

The DOT is projecting $2.9 billion, or approximately P133 billion, in tourist receipts by year-end, according to Durano.

Palace: Nat'l day of prayer has no connection to Erap

By Michael Lim Ubac

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO HAS declared Sept. 12 "a National Day of Prayer for Peace and Reconciliation of our Nation" but she has been advised not to leave the presidential palace the whole day tomorrow for security reasons.

The President canceled all her scheduled activities tomorrow, which included her leading the nation in praying for peace and unity in a pilgrimage to the shrine of the Blessed Mother in Lipa City.

Malacañang was quick to clarify that the national day of prayer was not timed to coincide with the promulgation of the verdict in the six-year corruption trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada.

"It's pure coincidence," said presidential legal adviser Sergio Apostol.

He said the Catholic bishops were the ones who had set the prayer date.

Neither the bishops nor President Arroyo had any idea that the Sandiganbayan would schedule the promulgation for tomorrow, Apostol said.

But asked if (the day of prayer) would temper the public's reaction to the verdict, Apostol said: "Yes, prayer always tempers anger."

The Office of the Executive Secretary said there was no instruction form the President to declare Sept. 12 a nonworking holiday.

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Doble threatened with suit by Apostol, 'demolition' by Miriam

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr. and Christine O. Avendaño

MALACAÑANG LEGAL ADVISER Sergio Apostol has warned T/Sgt. Vidal Doble that he could be charged with divulging military secrets, while administration Sen. Miriam Defensor threatened to demolish the former intelligence agent's testimony at the Senate in a privilege speech today entitled "The Recanting Witness in Criminal Law."

Doble, Sen. Panfilo Lacson's star witness in the revived Senate inquiry into the "Hello Garci" scandal, is clearly in for an explosive second appearance after he claimed last week that the military intelligence service had wiretapped the President and that the military, with the participation of a Palace undersecretary, had kidnapped his wife and children to shut him up in 2005.

"Since Mr. Doble has made allegations about the alleged arbitrary detention of his wife Arlene, fairness dictates that Arlene Doble should also be invited to testify," said Santiago in a letter to Sen. Rodolfo Biazon, chair of the committee on defense and national security.

In an interview with reporters, Santiago said "Arlene would be the best corroborative witness. Let us also call for his other mistresses and let us see how much is his salary and why he has so many lovers," Santiago said.

Doble claimed that he was forced to keep to himself what he knew about the "Hello Garci" tape in the past two years because his wife and family were being held against their will in the quarters of the military chief of staff.

Doble also said that it was Arlene who identified the Malacañang undersecretary to him as "Medy, a secretary of President Macapagal-Arroyo." The Palace official, later identified as Remedios Poblador of the legislative liaison office, also reportedly offered to "help" them financially.

Lacson, meanwhile, parried criticism leveled at Doble by his fellow senators who called him a "perjured witness who admitted to taking P2 million in bribe money."

"It's pretty obvious that they are protecting Malacañang. Not too long ago, Udong Mahusay was in a similar predicament. But Udong was worse because he told the truth first and then he lied afterwards. In Doble's case, he was under duress, he told lies because he was too intimidated. Now that he has come out to tell the whole truth, he is being stopped," Lacson said.

Santiago said she was going to confront Doble with his past.

"You cannot just appear in the Senate and tell the Senate a story that contradicts a prior story. Since you have already done that to the Senate, you have to prove your credentials as a story teller. In the language of the law, this becomes a question of character," said Santiago.

Santiago said she is set to make revelations about Doble that would make him "understandable but unacceptable."

She would expose, she said, his link to Lacson in the (now defunct) Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Task Force where Doble got a commendation.

"He is not by any means an objective witness," Santiago said.

Santiago said she had not forgotten that Doble's alleged paramour, Marietta Santos, had testified in the Senate in the first round of the "Hello Garci" probe in the 13th Congress and had given juicy tidbits about their relationship and how she was present when Doble was conducting Isafp's special wiretapping operations. It was Santos—not his wife—who was at the San Carlos Seminary in Makati City for Doble's aborted tell-all press conference. And it was Santos who filed the writ of habeas corpus at the CA, claiming Doble and his family were being held against their will by the AFP.

Meanwhile, the President's legal adviser reminded Doble that he could be criminally charged for spilling the beans on military operations and for revealing the secrets of his trade.

Apostol cited Article 229 of the Revised Penal Code as well as Republic Act 3019 or the Anti-Graft and Corrupt Practices Act, which prohibits any public official from revealing "any secret known to him by reason of his official capacity."

Even if Doble is no longer in the military service, after being discharged early this year for not reenlisting, the government could still go after him for those offenses, Apostol said.

WALK FOR A CAUSE
Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro (second from left) hands over cash and checks totaling P330,000 to Alay-Lakad Foundation president Frank Evaristo for projects for out-of-school youth at the Luneta Grandstand recently. More than 300,000 people took part in the walk-for-a-cause that raised more than P800,000. Looking on, from left, are Armed Forces of the Philippines Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, Philippine Jaycees president Glenn Santos and Social Welfare Undersecretary Celia Yangco.

P26-B cyber ed plan a good thing – Lapus

By Jerry E. Esplanada

EDUCATION SECRETARY JESLI A. Lapus yesterday defended the P26.4-billion Cyber Education Program (CEP) and allayed fears that it would displace thousands of teachers.

The program, to be undertaken in cooperation with a Chinese firm, aims to bridge the learning gap between urban and rural schools by using satellite technology to beam televised lectures to students and teachers in far-flung areas.

Contrary to opposition claims, "it will not replace any teachers at all," Lapus said. He said it would in fact enhance much-needed teacher training through daily sharing and collaboration with master teachers.

The CEP network "will provide cost-effective teacher training to some 470,000 public school teachers, enabling them to upgrade their capabilities using virtual teacher training modules," he said.

"We expect to save up to P60.3 billion in expenses resulting from efficiency in communications, teacher training and the management of the school system. And, of course, the huge economic value of an improved human capital in the country is pretty obvious," Lapus said.

The program targets a total of 37,794 schools in the next three years with an annual coverage of 13.6 million students.

Lapus, in an interview with the INQUIRER, maintained that the project was long overdue. It's "the best thing to happen to Philippine education," he said.

The CEP has been denounced by opposition lawmakers and the Alliance of Concerned Teachers (ACT) as another anomalous Chinese deal and an "unconscionable waste of money."

Trade Secretary Peter Favila and Dr. Kang Ke Jung of Tsinghua Tongfang Nuctech Co. signed a memorandum of agreement for the setting up of the CEP on April 21 in China—about the same time that the controversial $329-million national broadband network (NBN) deal with ZTE Corp. of China was signed.

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Rufus Rodriguez said the CEP was the anomalous "twin sister" of the broadband project, which is hounded by allegations of sex-and-kickback deal between top government officials and Chinese business executives.

Responding to the charges, Lapus said the two projects were different and had separate proponents.

The project "has been scrutinized, modified and approved by government agencies like the National Economic and Development Authority," he said.

Lapus also pointed out that the CEP was "still in the Memorandum of Agreement stage."

"We have no supply contract yet," he added.

A Department of Education report furnished this paper said the cyber education agenda was included in the 10-point memorandum of understanding signed on June 5 during the Philippines-China Economic Forum."

Antonio Tinio, ACT chair, had earlier challenged Lapus to "publicly defend the legality of the CEP contract" and called on Congress investigate the deal between the Chinese information technology company and the DepEd.

Egyptian recruiter barred from RP

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BUREAU OF IMMIGRATION has banned from the country an Egyptian job recruiter allegedly responsible for the deployment of scores of Filipino domestic helpers who later suffered abuse at the hands of their employers.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said he had issued an order placing Magdy Rassekh on the bureau's blacklist to prevent him from reentering the Philippines and victimizing more Filipino workers.

Libanan said the Department of Foreign Affairs had sought Rassekh's blacklisting after receiving a report from the Philippine Embassy in Cairo on the experiences of OFWs suffering abuse from their employers.

"The DFA has also issued a foreign service circular advising its various posts abroad not to issue a visa to Rassekh, whom it described as an undesirable alien," Libanan said.

In a letter to Libanan on Aug. 22, Foreign Assistant Secretary Domingo Lucenario Jr. of the Office of Consular Affairs, said many of the domestic helpers hired by Rassekh became victims of illegal recruitment and suffered various forms of abuse such as unpaid salaries, overwork and maltreatment.

Pag-IBIG posts high of P25B in loans

THE PAG-IBIG FUND handed out P24.9 billion in loans to its members from January to July this year, surpassing by 15.6 percent its loan outlay for the same period last year.

Vice President Noli de Castro, chair of the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC) and of the Pag-IBIG board of trustees, said the fund's end-user shelter financing program posted the biggest growth, with P10.4 billion in housing loans disbursed to individual borrowers, or 20 percent higher than the total loans for the same period in 2006.

The loans financed the purchase or construction of 21,648 housing units, also surpassing by 20 percent the number of units financed through July last year.

Pag-IBIG's short term loan program likewise grew, with a total of P14.92 billion released to 894,338 members as of July.

Cynthia D. Balana

Dawn Admits: My Husband Has A New *Lover*

After almost a decade of being wife to Congressman Anton Lagdameo, actress Dawn Zulueta has finally gotten the courage to admit the truth about her marriage.

"My husband has a new lover," she bravely discloses.

This new woman in her husband's life has a stunning hourglass figure - long, sexy legs, a shapely waist, slender arms and a flat tummy. She even looks younger than Dawn was a few years ago.

Who is this new woman? Before a malicious conclusion manages to form itself in your mind, let the truth be known: Her husband's new lover – is Dawn herself!

After weight struggles, mostly a result of her pregnancy, Dawn has managed to regain her whistle-bait body through religiously undergoing Marie France treatment, watching her diet and living a healthy lifestyle. At one point she reached 146 lbs. and a 40-inch waistline, a far cry from her formerly slim figure.

She reveals, "I went up 40 pounds after giving birth. My waistline was 40? 44? And that was from a 27-inch waistline! Imagine? I mean if you think about it, *magpapa-lipo na lang ako diba?* I actually consulted a doctor about it and was so close to doing it already. But the doctor said, "Dawn, *kung gusto mo mabuntis, wag ka muna magpa-lipo. Kasi sayang.*" She was being honest. That's 'cause if you gain weight again after you have lipo done, the fat comes out in other areas that were not "lipo-ed." So your body isn't proportioned, it's disfigured. *Yun yung may mga* ripples. *Parang longganisa!* Plus, I don't like seeing marks on my body. With lipo, *kahit maliliit,* I still don't like seeing scars. *Pag nagsuot ako ng* bathing suit, *parang halatang may ginawa ako sa* area *na 'to.*"

> *"I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage. Kasi when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted."*

"When I started doing Marie France, I told myself, 'Why didn't I think of this before?!'" Dawn recalls. "I started to lose weight even in areas no amount of exercise could treat! Like my saddlebags, cellulites, *ganyan.* They have so many machines! All the treatments are non-surgical and non-invasive so it's safe."

Now at 126 lbs. with a healthier, slimmer body, she is happier, more confident and more energetic. Dawn stresses, however, that she is all for being slim the safe, healthy way. She even admits to loving food, a refreshing divergence from the rampant eating disorders some celebrities fall victim to. "It would be difficult for me to avoid food, because I'm surrounded with a lot of people who love to eat. My own family loves to eat. So it's difficult for me to try to keep everything to a minimum, especially all the rich foods. But that's where discipline comes in."

And her discipline and consistent visits to Marie France have paid off, with her figure as evidence. "I think that having not only a sexy figure, but a healthy lifestyle helps in keeping the fire burning in any marriage," Dawn states. "I know that I look good. So I guess it helps, because it boosts my confidence when it comes to being with my husband. *Siyempre,* he in turn is also happy with the way I look, and I guess he also sees how happy I am with the way I am."

"It even affects your mood," Dawn adds. "It affects everything you do. Now, when my husband wants to go out or do anything, it's easier for me to get up and go because I'll fit into anything. Unlike before, I'd refuse to go out and tell him I had nothing to wear. He'd tell me, 'Ok, I'll buy you something to wear,' but then I'd tell him, 'It's 2 sizes bigger than my original size. *'Wag na lang.'* I'd just get depressed. So that could've posed bigger problems if it kept on happening. Now I know finding out everything about each other and accepting each other is a normal development in any relationship. However, having said that, it's also still important to maintain some kind of mystery and allure. *Kasi* when you take these things for granted, it's like taking your partner for granted. So I think it's important that married couples keep themselves looking good for each other, like how it was when they were still dating. And that goes for the men too!"

As for her husband's "new lover," what is she up to now? "A new baby," Dawn excitedly announces. "Come December, my husband and I are going to work on it. So that's the next big project for me. And you're going to see me gain weight all over again!"

She is not worried, however. "You're going to see me lose it all again too," she promises. "'Cause there's always Marie France!"

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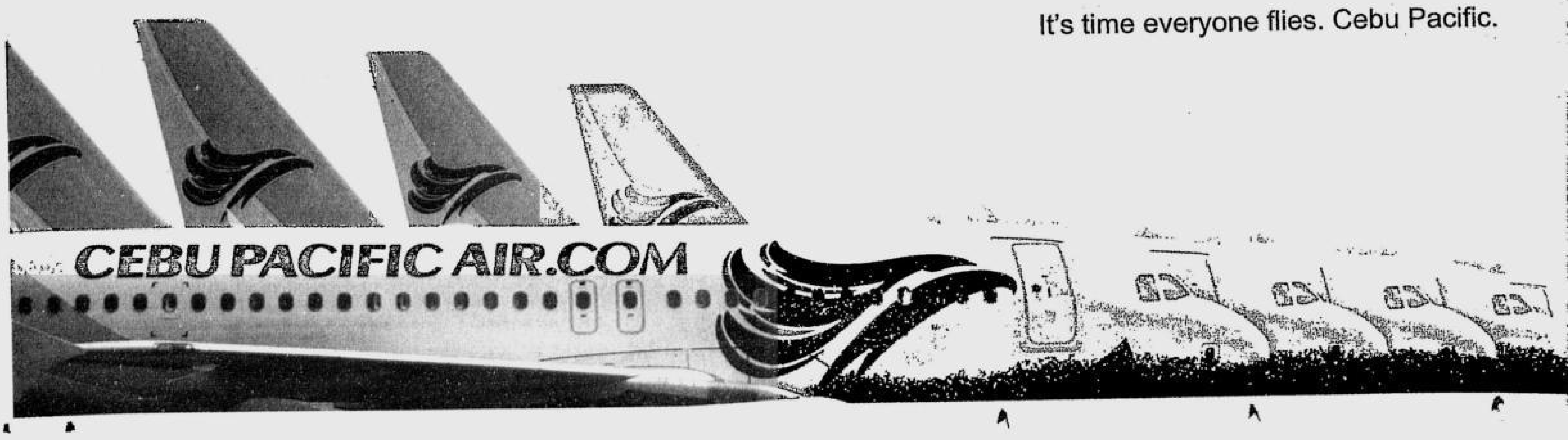

Fruits grow as harbingers of peace in Mindanao

By Tarra Quismundo

BEARING TONS OF PRODUCE AND A payload of hope, a military cargo plane landed in Manila yesterday from Mindanao hoping to kick start an initiative aimed at defeating the war in the south with an offensive of peace and livelihood.

The enticing sweet smell of fresh fruit filled the warm afternoon air at Villamor Air Base at 1 p.m. after a Philippine Air Force C-130 swung open its rear ramp to reveal crate upon crate of mangosteen and *lanzones* from Sulu.

It was the initial shipment of goods from the province that would kick off the "Fruit of Hope Program," a peace-building initiative of the Philippine National Red Cross, the Sulu provincial government, the PAF, the nongovernment organization Asia America Initiative and Metro Manila supermarkets.

"This is a symbolic gesture, that all the fruits of Sulu, which has been a zone of war [although] it is really not a zone of war, that people are harvesting their products and we want them to get a better price for their products here in Metro Manila," said Sen. Richard Gordon, PNRC chair, who was on the two-hour flight from Mindanao.

"What happens is the products are just left there without being sold. It's time to show that we are helping our friends there ... because Mindanao really is not a zone of war, it's a zone of peace," Gordon told reporters.

Bought from Sulu farmers at P20 per kilo, or four times the local price of P5, the four tons of mangosteen and two tons of lanzones are to be delivered to branches of two major Metro Manila supermarkets. The entire shipment was worth around P120,000.

Traders from Manila, who were introduced to Sulu produce through the initiative, found the fruits from the province to be competitive in quality and price. Manila supermarkets sell fruits grown mainly in southern Luzon provinces.

The produce was put together by a cooperative organized by the PNRC and the Sulu provincial government to oversee its sale and take in the revenue, said PNRC assistant secretary general Gwen Pang.

"A cooperative is being formed to take charge of quality control, to segregate fruits ... but it is owned by the people, by farmers from Jolo, Cotabato, Basilan, areas of armed conflict. Through the cooperative, what is earned would be distributed as dividends to farmers and to purchase machines to improve their processing technology," Pang said.

The Air Force will make room for the produce whenever its C-130s fly to Manila from Sulu, PAF chief Lt. Gen. Horacio Tolentino said in a recent press briefing.

The PAF's three operating cargo planes, which fly almost daily to the Visayas and Mindanao, burn P300,000 worth of aviation fuel per hour of flight. A one-way trip from Sulu to Manila takes around two hours.

"This will be a continuing job for the PAF. For as long as we have fruits to be transported from Mindanao, the Air Force will be willing to provide aircraft," said PAF spokesperson Lt. Col. Epifanio Panzo Jr.

Gordon said future shipments could also be transported by sea. To this end, he called on the Department of Transportation and Communication to "nudge" shipping companies into using the Sulu port.

"I was told the Sulu port is perfect. All we need is a shipping company willing to use it, even if the government has to subsidize shipping. It's cheaper to provide subsidies for shipping rather than go to war," Gordon said.

"And it's safer. No one will be killed, no one injured, and livelihood will be more progressive," he added.

SEN. RICHARD GORDON, Red Cross chair, off-loads mangosteen and "lanzones" from the Air Force plane that flew the "Fruits of Hope" from Sulu to be sold in Metro Manila supermarkets in a bid to boost livelihood in Mindanao's conflict-affected areas. JESS YUSON

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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, September 11, 2007
23rd Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading: Col 2:6-15
Gospel: Luke 6:12-19

Jesus went out into the hills to pray, spending the whole night in prayer with God. When day came, he called his disciples to him and chose twelve of them whom he called apostles: Simon, whom he named Peter, and his brother Andrew; James and John; Philip and Bartholomew; Matthew and Thomas; James son of Alpheus and Simon called the Zealot; Judas son of James, and Judas Iscariot, who would be the traitor.

Coming down the hill with them, Jesus stood on a level place. Many of his disciples were there and a large crowd of people who had come from all parts of Judea and Jerusalem and from the coastal cities of Tyre and Sidon. They gathered to hear him and be healed of their diseases; likewise people troubled by evil spirits were healed. The entire crowd tried to touch him because of the power that went out from him and healed them all.

Commentary

We must continue to live in Christ Jesus the Lord and in the Spirit in which we received him. We are to continually learn, be taught, and share in gratitude the grace of Christ with others. Our lives are to mirror Jesus' own life because we are his followers. And we are to pray before making any important decision daily. We are to live with others and hold each other accountable to God. We are to do the work of healing (medicine and health care for all) and we are to touch all with the power of God. This is our calling, our vocations and our life in baptism/confirmation and eucharist. Do we go back to our baptisms and back to the Word and our communities to be held accountable for growing in the mystery of dying and being born in God?

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Lucia G. Reyes; 75

LUCIA DE GUZMAN REYES OF ANTIPOLO City died on Sept. 9 at the age of 75.

She is survived by her daughters Loren, Gloria, Linda, Virgie and Yvette; sons Efren, Allen, Eddie, Dante, Mel and Boy, and grandchildren.

Her remains lie at San Isidro de Labrador Chapel at La Salle Antipolo. Interment will be on Sept. 13 at Manila Memorial Park in Parañaque City after the 8 a.m. Mass.

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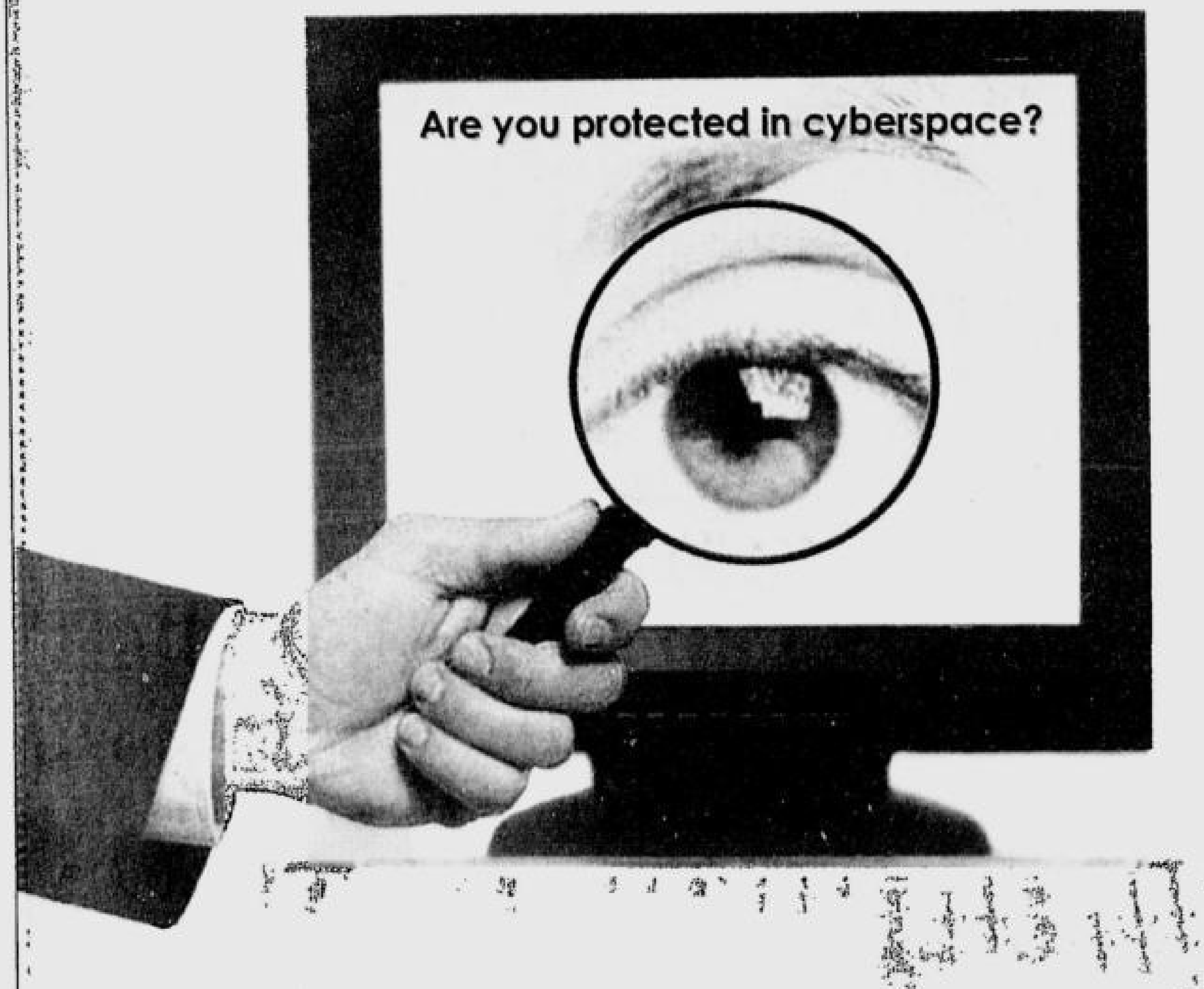
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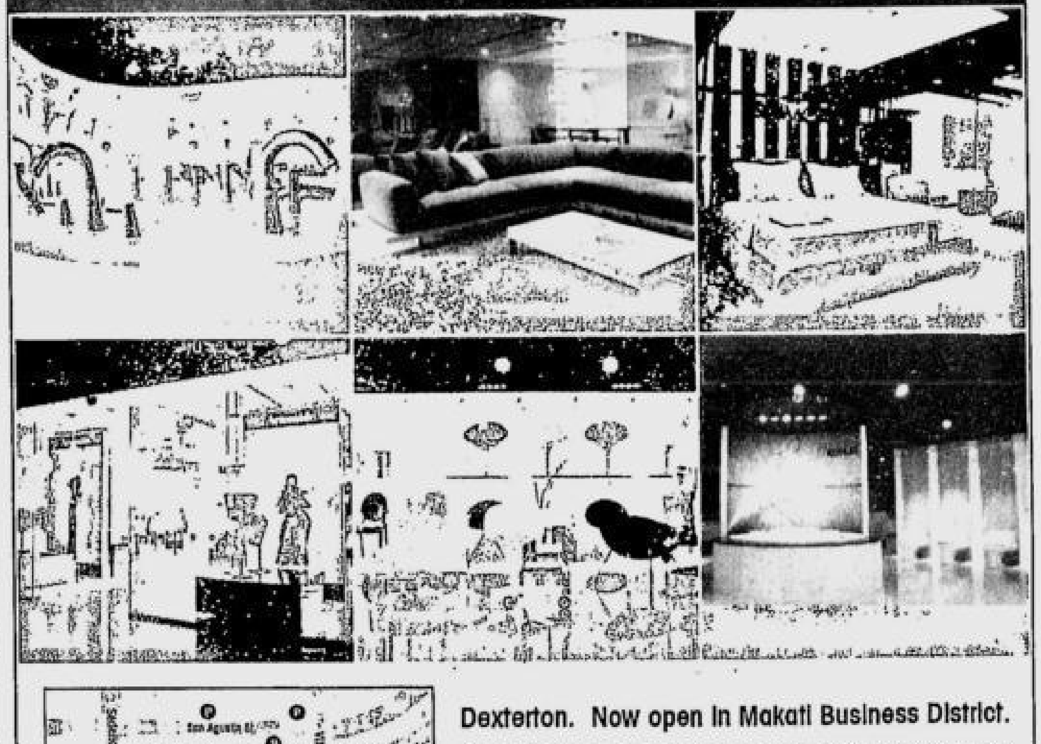

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RP agents fishing for info, say Reds in exile

By Jerome Aning

THE NATIONAL DEMOCRATIC FRONT yesterday said top Philippine security officials were in the Netherlands to ask Dutch authorities to share the "wealth of information" seized during the raids on NDF offices and the arrest of NDF consultant Jose Ma. Sison in Utrecht on Aug. 28.

Citing "reliable information," NDF chair Luis Jalandoni identified the officials as Deputy National Security Adviser Pedro Cabuay Jr. and Director General Cesar Garcia of the National Intelligence Coordinating Agency (Nica).

The Dutch police reportedly seized from six houses and offices of NDF members and supporters several computers, flash memory drives, digital cameras, as well as hard copies of documents with information on people who had been in touch with the NDF.

The NDF, through its lawyer Bernard Tomlow, warned Dutch authorities on Sept. 5 that they would be held accountable if there were more extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of political opponents of the Arroyo administration, as a result of its sharing information with Philippine intelligence agencies or with the United States' Central Intelligence Agency (CIA).

François Houtart and secretary general Gianni Tognoni of the Permanent Peoples' Tribunal also expressed concern for the safety of tribunal witnesses, after learning that Dutch authorities had also seized visual, written and recorded material related to the tribunal's second session on the Philippines.

JALANDONI

Jalandoni said Cabuay and Garcia were directly responsible for implementing the Arroyo administration's national internal security plan, Oplan Bantay Laya, which reportedly resulted in almost 900 extrajudicial killings and more than 200 enforced disappearances of known political activists and leaders of opposition groups.

The enforced disappearance of NDF consultant Rogelio Calubad and his son Gabriel on June 17, 2006, in Calauag, Quezon, was allegedly perpetrated by forces of the military's Southern Luzon Command, which was then led by Cabuay.

"Sharing information with Philippine intelligence agencies and the CIA would pose a very real danger to the lives of those who have been in communication with the NDF in connection with the peace negotiations and other matters," Jalandoni said.

He reminded the Dutch government that the Arroyo administration had already been censured by Amnesty International, the United Nations special rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions, the European Union and other governments for the rampant extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances of leftist activists and political dissidents.

"The whole world knows about the capacity of the Arroyo regime to commit the worst forms of human rights violations. The Dutch government has already helped Arroyo in deflecting attention from her crimes by arresting prof. Jose Maria Sison on obviously trumped up charges. It would be complicit to future extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances in the Philippines if it shares intelligence information with Philippine intelligence agencies," Jalandoni said.

De Castro pushes exporter program for OFWs

VICE PRESIDENT Noli de Castro yesterday said he would push for the application of the exporters' hedging program to the remittances of Overseas Filipino workers in order to protect the latter from the strong peso.

Hedging is the process of protecting oneself against unfavorable changes in prices.

De Castro, presidential adviser on OFWs, called for a meeting with Commission on Filipinos Overseas (CFO) chair Dante Ang, executives from the Development Bank of the Philippines and representatives of OFW groups—Center for Migrants Advocacy and V-Team Advocacy and Community Service—to discuss acceptable options to cushion the impact of the peso-dollar appreciation on OFW remittances.

Request rejected

This after the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas repeatedly rejected the OFWs' request for a fixed foreign exchange rate to prevent the depreciation of their remittances whenever the peso strengthens.

DBP executive vice president Theresa Quirino and DBP senior vice president Articer Quebal said the situation of the OFWs could be likened to that of exporters whose earnings are also being depleted by the peso appreciation.

De Castro said he was withdrawing his letter requesting for a fixed foreign exchange rate for the OFWs.

Instead, he would push for the hedging program, which is offered to exporters, to be offered to OFWs as well.

Two-pronged

According to De Castro, the DBP has two hedging programs: A foreign exchange insurance scheme which affords protection against peso appreciation, and a forward foreign rate protection scheme where only the net difference between the dollar/peso forward rate and the market rate shall be settled at a given maturity date.

Using the first program, De Castro said, the present exchange rate will be guaranteed for a certain period subject to payment of a premium.

In the second program, no premium is assessed but the exchange rate to be applied shall be constant until the maturity date even if, in the meantime, the peso depreciates.

With these options from the DBP, the only challenge left would be how to organize OFWs abroad and how to consolidate their remittances to lower transaction costs.

Cynthia D. Balana

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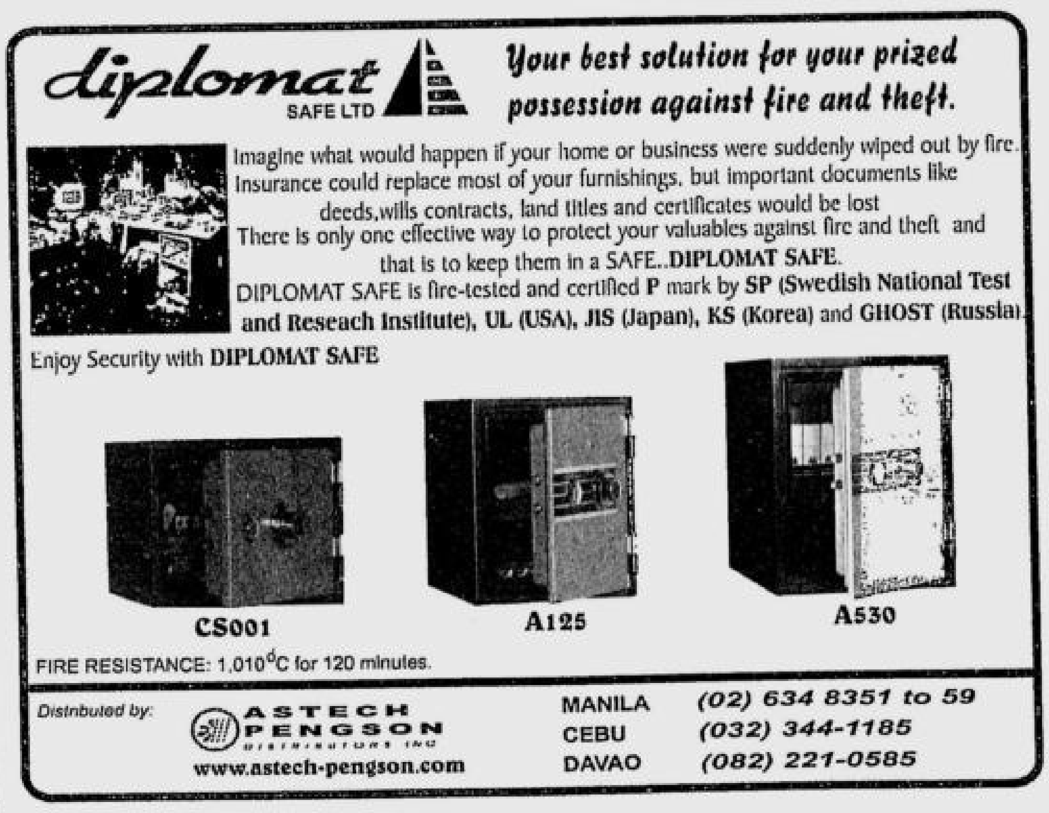

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Search for 5 other accused will go on forever

By Jocelyn R. Uy

THE CURTAINS ARE COMING down on the Estrada legal saga tomorrow, but five coaccused, whose whereabouts remain unknown, will be the subject of a "forever" search warrant, a state prosecutor said yesterday.

The so-called "supporting cast" in the 6-year court drama includes three women and two men—Yolanda Ricaforte, Alma Alfaro, Delia Rajas, Jaime Dichaves and Eleuterio Tan.

They have been mentioned several times in the twists and turns of the plunder case against ousted President Joseph Estrada, but none of them have been arraigned.

They remain a blur in the public eye. No photographs of them have been taken for court purposes. Even their addresses have not been established.

"There will be a forever standing warrant of arrest against them and they will have to be tried for plunder by the Special Division if ever they will be arrested," Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said.

Villa-Ignacio said that due to limited manpower, his office had failed to give these unaccounted for people equal attention during the trial.

Based on the evidence presented by the prosecution, Ricaforte was Estrada's personal auditor who allegedly kept track of the illegal gambling money that came his way.

Ricaforte, wife of a former tourism undersecretary, was Estrada's appointee as the nominee of the Presidential Commission on Good Government to the board of San Miguel Campo Freo Group.

It was purportedly Estrada who introduced former Ilocos Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson—the prosecution's chief whistle-blower—to Ricaforte.

Tan, Alfaro and Rajas were reported to have opened the bank accounts into which the P130 million in tobacco tax kickbacks—supposedly intended for Estrada—were allegedly funneled.

Laundered money

The trio, associates of Estrada's ex-gambling buddy Charlie "Atong" Ang, allegedly opened in August 1998 separate savings accounts at LandBank branches in Vigan and Mandaluyong City through which money was supposedly laundered.

Rajas was reportedly a cook of Ang's mother.

Dichaves' name was ordered "inserted" by the antigraft court's third division, chaired by Justice Anacleto Badoy Jr., as one of the John Does in an amended plunder charge sheet. His name did not appear in the original charge sheet.

Wrong addresses

Ang, also a respondent, admitted to a lesser offense of indirect bribery last March. He has been walking practically a free man after the antigraft court placed him on two years' probation three months ago.

Sandiganbayan Chief Sheriff Ed Urieta recalled attempts in 2001 to serve warrants of arrest on the five coaccused.

It was later reported that the five had left the country after Estrada was unseated in January 2001. Their addresses on the arrest warrants were also found to be fictitious, Urieta said.

But the show is not yet over for these almost forgotten characters, Villa-Ignacio said.

Whether or not Estrada is convicted, the "supporting cast" will have to face trial once arrested, he told the INQUIRER.

Erap should be freed even if convicted, says Dinky

By Norman Bordadora

ONE OF THE LEADERS OF THE civil society movement that sought Joseph Estrada's ouster held six years ago remains steadfast in her belief that he should be held accountable for his alleged wrongdoing.

However, former Social Welfare Secretary Corazon Soliman also said Estrada should no longer have to spend time in prison even if the Sandiganbayan finds him guilty.

The alliance PlunderWatch, a complainant in the case, said it stood by its accusations against Estrada. But the group appears to have lost interest in his conviction after it was supposedly eased out of the case by government prosecutors.

Worse than Estrada

In a past interview, PlunderWatch convenor Carol Araullo said the sins of the Arroyo administration—the alleged killings of militants and electoral fraud—were much worse that those of Estrada.

"The administration can make a decision on pardon but it is important for me that the accountabilities are clear. The accounting must be done," said Soliman.

While Soliman believes Estrada should be held liable for his alleged offenses, she thinks the former leader should be freed even if he is convicted.

"I think he has served enough time," she said. "He has been one of the former leaders who have served one of the longest periods in detention. For humanitarian reasons, there should be some consideration about the sentence."

Bayan Muna Rep. Teodoro Casiño said PlunderWatch would accept the court's decision if it is based on the merits of the case.

"What we filed (against Estrada) then still stands. But we have long been out of the loop as far as the prosecution is concerned," he said.

Politicians like former Vice President Teofisto Guingona and Senate President Manuel Villar, who played major roles in Estrada's impeachment, have reconciled with him.

The lawyers who filed the plunder case say Estrada should serve his life sentence if he is convicted.

"If they will amnesty Estrada, let them amnesty everybody," said Leonard De Vera, a former national president of the Integrated Bar of the Philippines.

De Vera said pardoning Estrada would send a signal that it was fine to commit graft if one enjoyed immense influence. "It will show that big-time politicians have big-time privileges for their big-time crimes. What lessons shall we have learned?" he said.

"You can't have more than one standard of justice," he said.

Human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong said court decisions "should be insulated from political processes."

Capulong said Estrada's case should serve as a warning to President Macapagal-Arroyo. "If Erap is convicted, let it stand. Let it deliver a stinging message that (Ms Arroyo) will be next," he said.

I am ready for prison, says ousted President

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political player."

Golez said Estrada would also play an even bigger role in the presidential elections three years from now. He noted the presence of what he called presidential hopefuls during Estrada's visit to his mother last Sunday.

"Many people will be gravitating toward him," he said.

Estrada said he would not challenge Ms Arroyo's leadership if the court acquits him and he would be happy to stay in the background, dispensing advice to other politicians.

Should the court hand down a guilty verdict, Estrada said he would elevate his case to the Supreme Court.

Security at Estrada's estate in Tanay has been doubled, said his spokesperson Ferdie Ramos, noting that police had barred non-family members from visiting the ousted leader.

The order took effect on Monday.

Another Estrada son, San Juan City Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, said the tight security and the planned massive deployment of troops around the city on Wednesday was an admission that the Arroyo administration was afraid of the people's possible reaction to the court's ruling.

Petition for mistrial

Senator Estrada said that if acquitted, he would discuss with his lawyers how to seek compensation from the government for the two years he was detained.

The ousted President is accused of illegally amassing about P4 billion from gambling payoffs and tax kickbacks, and of falsely declaring his assets. He has denied the charges and said his trial was pure political persecution.

Two days before the court is to issue its ruling, lawyer Cirilo Avila asked for a postponement of the promulgation.

In a manifestation, Avila stated that the antigraft court could not render a judgment without even considering the "manifestation in intervention" he filed 12 days ago.

In his petition for a mistrial, Avila claimed the Arroyo administration hatched a conspiracy to silence Federico Manrique, a member of an anticrime watchdog group, whose testimony would supposedly tend to favor Estrada.

He alleged that Manrique and his family were brought to Canada on a diplomatic status by virtue of a "confidential directive" from Ms Arroyo.

Estrada's old gang: Where are they now?

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those bacchanalian nights with his "midnight Cabinet"—where a clique of associates supposedly wangled concessions and struck deals with him—defined the Estrada presidency.

'The Erap Tragedy'

Who could forget Charlie "Atong" Ang, Lucio Lao Co, William Gatchalian, Lucio Tan, Dante Tan, Jacinto Ng Sr., Luis "Baby" Asistio, Mark Jimenez, Jaime Dichaves, Jose Luis Yulo and, of course, Luis "Chavit" Singson?

In his book "The Erap Tragedy," Estrada's chief of staff Aprodicio Laquian wrote that in the President's final tragic hours in Malacañang, many of his friends "did not keep him company."

It was, in fact, one of them—Singson with his exposé of kickbacks that Estrada supposedly got from the illegal numbers game *"jueteng"*—who did him in.

Some of the gang eventually fled the country. Others simply switched loyalties.

Through his six-year detention and trial for plunder, only a few of his friends managed to visit him on occasion at his vacation estate in Tanay, Rizal, or kept in touch, Estrada loyalists said.

"The President himself said that the past few years have been an eye-opener for him because he discovered who his true friends were," an undersecretary during the Estrada administration said in an interview. The former official asked not to be identified, saying he did not want to be perceived as seeking publicity at the expense of others.

Some of the Malacañang habitues even figured prominently in his impeachment trial in late 2000 and, later, in his trial for plunder.

The Sandiganbayan hands down its verdict in the plunder case tomorrow.

Inner circle

Asistio, a former congressman who lost the fight for mayor in Caloocan City in the May 14 elections, was among the few who still sees or calls Estrada every now and then.

"They still call each other. He's still in the inner circle of Estrada," the former undersecretary said of Asistio, a longtime pal of Estrada's.

Gatchalian, who built a fortune making plastic products and earned the monicker "Plastics King," had also been seen at Estrada's estate.

"He comes every now and then, bringing *lechon* (roasted pig)," said Lito Banayo, then Estrada's adviser for political affairs. "He has not forgotten Erap as a friend."

New golf partner

There were, however, reports that Gatchalian was now a "golfing buddy" of First Gentleman Jose Miguel Arroyo, according to Banayo.

Gatchalian's name cropped up during the impeachment trial at the Senate and then at the hearings on the plunder case when his listed firm was alleged to have received a P500-million loan from Estrada through the Jose Velarde account.

Gatchalian has kept a low profile, and his name has been mentioned in the news only in relation to the electoral victories of three of his sons, and his holding firm Wellex Group's plan to venture into oil and mining.

As for Ng, a close friend of Estrada's since his days as San Juan mayor and an associate of San Juan Mayor JV Ejercito and former actress Laarni Enriquez, he has kept his ties with the former President, according to Banayo.

No more contacts

"I still see him during Erap's birthdays. He has not deserted Erap," he said.

Nothing much has been heard of Co, owner of the Puregold retail firm, who in 1999 topped the list of 14 alleged major smugglers; Dante Tan, who was investigated for a stock trading scam in October 1999; Dichaves, who allegedly opened the Jose Velarde account, and Yulo, Estrada's housing adviser, who supposedly received a P142-million check from the Velarde account for the acquisition of a mansion for one of Estrada's mistresses.

"Estrada has had no contact with Co for a long time," according to the former undersecretary.

"Erap has not talked to him. Since Edsa Dos (People Power II), he has transferred his loyalty and business [to the Arroyo administration]," Banayo said.

Matter of survival

Estrada has had no contact with Dante Tan since the businessman fled the country before the 2001 revolt. He was reported to have fled Australia in 2003 after members of Parliament began inquiring into his claims he had obtained a residency visa from a minister after making a political donation.

Like Dante Tan, Dichaves is out of the country, according to Banayo.

"Of his personal friends, only very few are left to comfort him in his detention," said Rufus Rodriguez, immigration commissioner during the Estrada administration and now a congressman of Cagayan de Oro City's second district.

"It's a matter of business and political survival," Rodriguez said, when asked why Estrada's associates had shied away from him over the past years. "You wouldn't want the BIR (Bureau of Internal Revenue) and Customs to go after you."

Estrada has severed his ties with Singson, a close ally turned bitter enemy since he kicked up the jueteng controversy.

A falling-out

He had also cut ties with his former gambling buddy Atong Ang, friend Mark Jimenez and taipan Lucio Tan before the 2001 revolt, according to Banayo.

Singson ran for senator under the administration banner in the May elections and lost dismally. Ang has been granted a two-year probation after pleading guilty to a lesser charge in the plunder case against Estrada.

Jimenez, who was detained in a US federal prison for 27 months for tax fraud and illegal campaign contributions to the US Democratic Party, had been hogging the news lately for his charity work—as well as for his family troubles.

Estrada had a falling-out with tycoon Lucio Tan after the Estrada administration questioned a Court of Appeals ruling junking a P27-billion tax evasion case against Tan's Fortune Tobacco firm in 2000, according to his former Cabinet officials.

"I don't think Tan wants to be identified with Estrada considering that Estrada is a perceived opponent of Malacañang," said Rodriguez.

A tragedy

Lucio Tan is fighting off a bid by the Presidential Commission on Good Government to recover 60 percent of his assets that supposedly belonged to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos.

Listed as one of the richest men in the world by Forbes magazine, he has announced plans to "share his profits" by making some of his companies public.

"It's a tragedy on their part because they're disloyal," Rodriguez said of Estrada's former friends. "They have no sense of what loyalty is all about."

YULO

JIMENEZ

ASISTIO

DICHAVES

DANTE TAN

SINGSON

LUCIO TAN

ANG

The Verdict

TIMELINE

THE ESTRADA TRIAL: TESTIMONY AND REBUTTAL

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SERAPIO

committing economic plunder. He is arrested hours later.

May 1—Estrada and his son are airlifted from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center in Quezon City to the Special Action Forces Training Center in Fort Sto. Domingo, Sta. Rosa City, Laguna. Pro-Estrada supporters march on Malacañang, resulting in violent clashes between policemen and the marchers, in what the media described as Edsa Tres.

June 9—The court denies Estrada and his son Jinggoy's petition for house arrest.

June 19—Estrada's perjury case is raffled off to the Sandiganbayan First Division chaired by Justice Francis Garchitorena.

June 27—Estrada is arraigned on the perjury charge. He refuses to enter a plea.

Sept. 3—Start of the four-day pre-trial for the plunder case against Estrada, son Jinggoy and Serapio. Nine Ricaforte accounts are frozen by the Sandiganbayan but prosecution's request to freeze the P211 million in deposits of the Erap Youth Foundation Inc. (EMYF) is rejected.

Sept. 18—Estrada files petition with the Supreme Court questioning the constitutionality of the Anti-Plunder Law.

ARELLANO

Oct. 1—Plunder trial starts.

Nov. 7—Carlos Arellano, former chair, president and chief executive officer of the Social Security System, testifies on how Estrada "pressured" him into authorizing the purchase of P784 million worth of Belle Corp. shares using SSS funds in October 1999.

Nov. 15—Defense lawyers argue that the testimonies of two key prosecution witnesses that Estrada made money from the purchase of Belle Corp. shares using the SSS funds were mere "hearsay."

Nov. 19—The Supreme Court upholds the Anti-Plunder Law.

2002

Jan. 7— Belle Corp. vice chair Willie Ng Ocier testifies that a P189.7-million I-Bank check was issued by the SSI Management, the company that sold Belle shares to the SSS and Government Service Insurance System (GSIS) in October 1999, to pay the commission allegedly demanded by Estrada.

Jan. 8—The Supreme Court forms a "special division" in the Sandiganbayan to hear all the different criminal cases against Estrada.

Feb. 25—Estrada admits on ABS-CBN that he had signed as Jose Velarde on certain bank documents back in 2000, but explains this was to execute as a form of "guarantee" to convince Jaime Dichaves, the supposed true owner of the account, to lend money to businessman William Gatchalian.

Feb. 27—Estrada refuses to enter a plea on his arraignment for illegal use of an alias. Later in the evening, he announces that he has ordered the withdrawal of his lawyers from all the cases filed against him. He says his decision was prompted by the Supreme Court's rejection of Jinggoy's bail petition.

April 12—He refuses to enter a plea in his second perjury charge for understating his net assets in 1998.

April 17—Prosecutors present two "star witnesses"—Equitable Bank executive Clarissa Ocampo and lawyer Manuel Curato—who earlier testified at Estrada's impeachment trial that they saw him sign bank documents as "Jose Velarde."

May 22—Prosecutors start presenting "Juetenggate"-related evidence. Edelquinn Nantes, manager of Equitable PCIBank Timog branch, testifies that Ricaforte opened a savings account with the branch on Sept. 1, 1999, with an initial deposit of P17.2 million.

June 17—Ma. Carmencita "Menchu" Itchon testifies that Estrada allegedly put up a casino-operating firm with bribe money from illegal gambling syndicates.

July 1—Emma Lim testifies that alleged jueteng lord Bong Pineda and Anton Prieto, Estrada's presidential assistant for Bicol affairs, had regularly delivered jueteng collections to former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson who, in turn, allegedly gave them to Estrada.

ITCHON (left) and LIM

July 24—Singson, Estrada's main nemesis, takes the stand. He recalls that in order to give Estrada's favorite mistress Laarni Enriquez a P13-million necklace as a gift for her birthday in 1999, several of his friends chipped in P1.2 million each. Singson says he drew his contribution not from his own pocket but from Estrada's jueteng money deposited in a Metrobank account.

July 31—Estrada lawyers attack the credibility of Singson by exposing the "favors" he allegedly received from President Macapagal-Arroyo for his role in Estrada's ouster.

Aug. 15—Defense and prosecution clash over the credibility of Singson's "jueteng ledger," supposed evidence that Estrada was on the take from illegal gambling.

Aug. 26—The Sandiganbayan orders a freeze of the bank deposits believed to be illegally amassed by Estrada, Ang and Ricaforte.

Sept. 30—Antonio Martin Fortuno, operations officer at the Pacific Star-Makati branch of Equitable PCI Bank, discusses at length how Estrada's alleged jueteng payola ended up as funds for the EMYF.

Oct. 2—Serapio's lead counsel, Sabino Acut, presents as defense evidence minutes of the EMYF board meetings, which showed that the foundation's officers included then Equitable PCI Bank chair George Go. Estrada's spokesperson, Raymund Fortun, says the presence of an important person like Go in the EMYF board shatters the prosecution's claim that it was a front for illegal activities.

FORTUN

Nov. 13—Ocampo takes the witness stand as the prosecution's 49th witness. Reprising her revelations at the impeachment trial, she says Estrada kept a multibillion-peso bank account using an alias and that on Feb. 4, 2000 he signed as "Jose Velarde" 15 times on documents she had prepared loaning P500 million from the Velarde account to Gatchalian's Wellex Croup Inc.

OCAMPO

Nov. 18—State prosecutors distribute to the press copies of George Go's January 2001 affidavit recounting a Dec. 13, 2000, incident in which Dichaves signed documents antedated to Feb. 4, 2000, transferring to Dichaves' name the P500-million trust account opened by "Jose Velarde." Marcelo says it would corroborate Ocampo's testimony and demolish the defense panel's insistence that Dichaves was the real Velarde.

2003

Jan. 21—Prosecutors ask the court to subpoena documents from the now defunct Urban Bank for transactions under the name of San Juan Mayor Joseph Victor "JV" Ejercito, Estrada's son with former actress Guia Gomez. They allege that the Ejercito account was the source of seven checks worth P182 million that went into the Velarde account, further proof that it belonged to his father.

Feb. 10—The court denies Ejercito's motion opposing the court's subpoena regarding his Urban Bank accounts.

Feb. 11—Prosecutors call for an inspection of the so-called Boracay mansion in New Manila, Quezon City. Defense lawyers pose objections, saying such exercise would only cater to "the publicity seekers," and argue that the property could not be used as evidence since it was not mentioned in the plunder charge.

March 6—After two years in detention, Jinggoy is allowed to post a P500,000 bail. But the court still notes that he probably collected "jueteng" money only for his own selfish needs and not in conspiracy with his father.

March 19—Sandiganbayan justices inspect the Boracay mansion. Among their findings was a furniture locator slip that had "Laarni V. Enriquez" as the approving authority, an item which prosecutors said was a giveaway that Estrada owned the mansion.

April 9—Public prosecutors rest their case after presenting 76 witnesses and close to 700 documents.

May 19—Estrada hires a new lawyer, Ateneo de Manila law professor Alan Paguia.

July 28—First hearing for the defense evidence.

Nov. 25—The Supreme Court unanimously decides to suspend Paguia for "liberally imputing sinister and devious motives and questioning the impartiality, integrity and authority" of its members despite repeated warnings.

2004

July 12—The court rules that Estrada could not be prosecuted for using the "Velarde" alias to open a bank account in 2000, saying the practice was not illegal at that time. But it was not legal for him to hide the existence of the bank account where he allegedly stashed billions of pesos in ill-gotten wealth.

Sept. 1—Estrada files a motion asking the court to allow the return of the nine-person defense team led by lawyer Rene Saguisag that he dismissed two years ago. He says he wanted the panel to represent him instead of his four court-appointed lawyers.

SAGUISAG

Nov. 17—Jinggoy Estrada claims that he was shooting "Peksman" somewhere in Quezon City on the night of Oct. 8, 2000, contrary to Singson's claims that Jinggoy met with him that night and begged him not to proceed with the Juetengate exposé.

2005

May 11—Court grants Saguisag's petition asking the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) to produce P130 million in cash. He wants to prove that such bulk of cash would be too heavy (P130 million in P1,000-bills already weighs about 130 kilos) for Ang to have hand-carried to Estrada in August 1998, as Singson earlier claimed.

May 25—In a demonstration conducted at the BSP, Saguisag says P130 million in cash could not fit inside the four boxes that were previously described by Singson, adding that the boxes could only contain P80 million.

May 27—Special Prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio reiterates that nobody, not even Singson, said that Ang had delivered all of the P130 million to Estrada on Aug. 31, 1998, adding that bank records showed that on that day, Ang had drawn only P90 million from the Mandaluyong City branch of Westmont Bank.

JINGGOY ESTRADA

June 6—The defense presents lawyer Hilario Ragunjan who authenticates suspected gambling lord Bong Pineda's statement denying his involvement in jueteng.

Oct. 4—The Sandiganbayan denies Estrada's petition for bail, explaining that the deciding factor is the strength of evidence against the accused and not the probability of flight.

2006

March 22—Estrada testifies for the first time, dismissing the charges against him as "a pack of lies." His request for live media coverage is denied. Several hundred pro-Estrada protesters tried to march to the Sandiganbayan but were turned back without incident.

March 29—Estrada says Singson actually pocketed the millions in tobacco kickbacks that he allegedly delivered to him in four boxes. He also alleges that before he assumed the presidency, Singson took P1.4 billion in advances and payments for overpriced and nonexistent construction projects from 1997 to 1998.

April 5—Estrada cites as part of his defense evidence a book by the late National Artist Nick Joaquin, "Joseph Estrada and Other Sketches," saying it records one of his first acts as San Juan mayor—a crackdown on "jueteng" operations. But for Villa-Ignacio, the late Joaquin is more noted for fiction writing.

April 19—Estrada testifies that a son out of wedlock received a P1.2-million check from Singson as a birthday gift and denies it was meant to buy a P13-million necklace for his mistress.

April 26—Estrada calls Singson a "corrupt governor," "a publicly accused murderer," a "documented" smuggler, and someone who worked for his ouster because he was about to lose his own illegal gambling racket to state-sanctioned gaming.

He denies allegations that the EMYF had laundered P200 million from jueteng, saying he discovered too late that the foundation had received the money. When he did he asked Serapio, then his presidential assistant on political affairs and EMYF's corporate secretary, to return it to Singson, Estrada says he "knew immediately" that the money came from jueteng and that Singson was "a scheming crony who merely used [Estrada's] name to rake in jueteng collections for himself."

May 24—Estrada admits in court that he signed bank documents as "Jose Velarde" but denies that the controversial bank account was his but is actually owned by his friend Dichaves, and that he had earlier reached an "internal arrangement" with Dichaves and the bank before he signed.

May 31—Estrada tells the court he chose to face the charges to prove his innocence rather than go into "exile" in shame. He insists he is still President since he "has not resigned" and "was never incapacitated or impeached." He identifies "powerful and influential" people who allegedly conspired to oust him.

June 14—Estrada admits holding several undeclared bank accounts containing more than P56 million in deposits, but insists these were campaign funds that he was just holding in trust. He explains that he did not declare the deposits in his 1998 Statement of Assets and Liabilities because the money belonged to his party Partido ng Masang Pilipino.

June 21—Prosecutors accuse Estrada of lying in court when he denied allegations of kickbacks from government contracts. Villa-Ignacio cites documents from the Office of the President indicating that Estrada had agreed to guarantee nearly 45 billion yen in numerous soft loans from Japanese aid agencies in 2000.

June 28—Taking the stand for the 11th and last time, Estrada says he is confident of an acquittal.

2007

Jan. 24—Estrada's coaccused Charlie "Atong" Ang agrees to return P25 million to government as part of a plea bargain offer. He says the amount was part of the P130 million in tobacco excise tax that he and Estrada "diverted" in 1998.

March 14—The Sandiganbayan approves the plea bargain. Ang surrenders his Corinthian Gardens home in lieu of the P25 million. He was later sentenced to between two years and four months and six years in jail instead of up to 40 years as part of the deal.

June 13—Prosecution and defense file their summation of evidence and arguments before the Sandiganbayan. Public prosecutors submit 626 pages; the defense, 276 pages.

June 15—The trial closes with final oral arguments, which lasts for seven hours, and the first to be held in the Sandiganbayan's 29-year history. Estrada says he "believes 100 percent" that he would be acquitted. PlunderWatch convenor Carol Araullo says the group has "long given up on the plunder trial" and was not too keen on conviction anymore.

Aug. 29—The INQUIRER reports that some 6,000 policemen and military troops will be deployed the day the Sandiganbayan hands down its verdict in the plunder and perjury cases, in anticipation of rallies by pro-Estrada groups. Estrada dismisses the plan as an "overkill."

Sept. 7—The Sandiganbayan sets judgment day on Sept. 12.

COMPILED BY KATE PEDROSO, PDI REASEARC

BORACAY MANSION

GMA's men fight over Subic turf

From page A1

would say of that meeting was that the President "ordered a reversion to the old setup." That meant his being back as one of three signatories to gate passes for goods that come out of the free port.

Calimlim got his demand. It was the same for the two other officials who Arreza temporarily assigned to other units. Arreza's two trusted men, Redentor Tuazon and Ferdinand Hernandez, have remained.

Arreza says Tuazon initiated audits on PTT and Tri-Solid, which resulted in the uncovering of substantial volumes of unliquidated oil admissions. Tuazon also exerted "greater scrutiny" on erring car trading companies.

Hernandez, who has a master's degree in port administration from the University of Wales, was appointed acting deputy administrator for ports in December 2006, "given his track record."

Last line of defense

Arreza says the gate passes, the SBMA's last line of defense against smugglers, are now signed by either Calimlim, Hernandez or Capt. Perfecto Pascual, general manager for ports.

"Actual authority rests with General Calimlim as he continues to oversee seaport and airport operations, fire and law enforcement. He may opt to sign all gate passes, if he so pleases," he says.

Arreza has been quiet on the feud, saying only "the President asked us to work together to combat smuggling outside the free port."

Smuggling at the Subic Freeport, he says, reached the media's attention because of the audit efforts by the SBMA and seizures by Calimlim's Task Force Subic.

Calimlim says Arreza's new setup, mainly the replacement or introduction of executives, has "polarized people." He mentions Undersecretary Antonio Villar Jr., head of the Presidential Antismuggling Group and former Trade Secretary Tomas Alcantara.

Calimlim says Customs Commissioner Napoleon Morales and Arreza are together.

Alignments

He does not say what caused those alignments or on which side he is on.

Villar is known to be a friend of the President's youngest brother, Diosdado Macapagal Jr. He came to Subic in July. "I'm just here to carry out the President's order, to help stop smuggling," Villar says.

Calimlim, 61, resists the idea of having another task force in his turf. He says Villar cannot unilaterally operate in Subic.

Calimlim admits getting angry when Villar claimed he discovered 25 smuggled cars in 16 overstaying vans in July. He claims credit for the "catch."

Morales is cynical of task forces.

"You will have the same dog with a different collar. Eventually, they might be vulnerable. It's all about money," he says.

Brakes

Despite the squabbles among the President's men, corrective measures have been put in place, albeit belatedly.

On July 18, Arreza and Morales signed a memorandum of agreement (MOA) clarifying or adding operational matters. This MOA came 14 years after then SBMA Chair Richard Gordon and then Customs Commissioner Guillermo Parayno signed a set of rules on how the SBMA and the BOC would implement and enforce customs laws.

The rules gave the SBMA responsibility for the "operation and management of the fenced area of the former American naval base; the BOC for supervising and administering customs operations involving the admission of articles to the secured area of the zone, the removal of articles from the secured area of the zone."

The MOA, according to Morales, cures the defects that allow smugglers and their cohorts to cheat on government. Instead of working independently, the customs commissioner and the SBMA administrator created an oversight committee and agreed to exchange "timely information."

Enforcement controls

"To achieve enforcement controls," the two agencies shall delineate entry and exit points.

Import permits, said to be the faucet that opened the floodgates of importation or smuggling, shall be now given by the SBMA to the BOC.

Jesus Arranza, Federation of Philippine Industries president, says companies in Subic, as well as at the Clark Freeport in Pampanga, mostly liquidate their importations after five years or not at all.

The release of goods and consumption to the BOC territory shall be covered by delivery permit. This should be attached to the gate passes issued "concurrently" by the BOC and the SBMA.

The MOA states that the SBMA and the BOC shall "strictly impose" on the locators an "annual inventory, reconciliation, reportorial and audit requirements" as required in CAO No. 4-93.

Improved procedures

The SBMA has applied "improved procedures" to monitor the movement of imported motor vehicles.

These include requiring importers to identify the make and model, hiring additional auditors to reconcile liquidation reports and books of the locators against the SBMA's import-export records, conducting physical inventory on warehouses, and accessing the seaport department's records of gate passes to eliminate spurious or recycled gate passes attached to liquidation reports.

The seaport department has also required the submission of the Value Reference Information System (VRIS) clearance from the BOC before the SBMA issues any gate pass. This step will check if the BOC correctly assessed the tax values and collected these for the government.

Arranza says the antismuggling drive should not only protect the automotive industry but also the entire domestic market.

Smuggling, the 'legal' way

Following is a report by Armand Arreza, administrator of Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority, to President Macapagal-Arroyo on March 15 on smuggling activity at the free port along with his recommendations:

1. HIDEMITSU TRADING Corp. declared for admission into the Subic Bay Freeport at least six used cars on Sept. 26, two used cars on Oct. 5, and 15 new cars and a used car on Oct. 6 or a total of 24 cars in 2006.

2. The company paid taxes and duties, but 14 of the cars were undervalued. Paid taxes amounted to only P2.4 million or less than 7 percent of the manufacturers' suggested retail price of P38.2 million. The tax should be 100 percent since cars are highly dutiable goods.

3. Bureau of Customs (BOC) personnel in Subic assessed the value of the vehicles in October and November 2006 without proper review and clearance from the Value Reference Information System (VRIS) at the office of BOC commissioner.

4. The BOC issued Hidemitsu certificates of payments, which was used to register the cars with the Land Transportation Office.

5. The LTO accepted the 14 cars for registration and issued license plates despite absence of original VRIS clearance.

6. Hidemitsu did not apply for gate passes from the SBMA, "perhaps to cover up the underassessment of duties and taxes." Applications for SBMA gate passes require the attachment of official receipts from BOC.

7. Using the LTO registrations, the cars managed to pass through the sentries manned by Task Force Subic, SBMA's law enforcement department and BOC police. The company owner alleged this was without his knowledge.

Operatives of the Task Force Subic, BOC and the Presidential Anti-Smuggling Task Force seized five of the cars from a showroom in Quezon City on March 7. (An INQUIRER source said the showroom's owner was a "*kumpare*" of a BOC official.)

Nine more cars were seized in a warehouse in Angeles City of Hidemitsu's Korean partners. Two more were seized in a warehouse at the Subic Freeport.

Recommendations:

1. The BOC should be made to account for the undervaluation of the luxury cars. Enforce the VRIS review for correct valuation and classification of imported cars.

2. Evaluate the continued existence, performance and effectiveness of Task Force Subic in its mandate to prevent and suppress smuggling and other related practices against customs laws inside the free port. The overlapping powers between the Task Force Subic and the President's antismuggling task force need to be clarified to avoid duplication of powers.

3. The SBMA will investigate the members of its law enforcement department who failed to stop the Hidemitsu incident.

A car smuggler's tale

(Editor's Note: The following is how a car smuggler views the smuggling of cars inside the Subic Bay Freeport. The source, who requested anonymity, has been in car trading since 1965, starting in Manila before moving to Cebu. He began smuggling cars out of the Subic Bay Freeport in 2001.)

THE SMUGGLING OF CARS via the Subic Bay Freeport is a lucrative business. We in the gray market (without any dealership's permit) sell cars 30-40 percent cheaper. We do not pay the blue book value (versus the transaction value).

If you're a free port resident, you can import cars under your name or use dummies, like your housemaid. You can import if you are a registered locator even if you are not in car trading, or you can avail yourself of port user's right.

You have to talk to only a few Bureau of Customs (BOC) people.

Dealers in the gray market do not sell to legitimate outlets.

There is poor coordination between Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority (SBMA) and the BOC. We can bypass getting import permits. We can enter and exit our cars via the Port of Subic and then pay taxes in Cebu City.

Car smuggling is worse in Cebu. Monthly, 5,000 cars are smuggled there; at Subic, 3,000 to 5,000 units.

Another style is to pay for the engine and chassis and pretend that you are a licensed assembler even if a car is brought in whole. The license plates can be secured either from the Land Transportation Office in Toledo City or in Diliman, Quezon City.

SBMA and BOC officials know all this. The SBMA has a bigger area because it covers the free port. Customs does not check warehouses.

Profit comes from not paying the government the right taxes.

I pity the government because grease money is bigger than the income government derives from this. Bribes at BOC are between P500,000 and P600,000 per car. The highest tax is between P100,000 and P200,000.

ZTE denies bribing execs

ZHONG XING TELECOMMUNICATION Equipment (ZTE) Corp. yesterday denied bribing government officials to bag the $329-million contract for the National Broadband Network (NBN) project.

"It [ZTE] was chosen for the NBN project because it had the first and the best proposal, and the best track record," the Chinese firm said in a statement.

The company said its initial offer of $262 million grew to $329 million because the government's requirements changed.

Initially, the network was meant to provide a broadband connection to 2,000 local government units (LGUs) and government agencies with a bandwidth of 155 MBps.

The final proposal accommodated the new requirement, which was to cover 25,000 LGUs, government agencies and barangays nationwide with a bandwidth of 622 MBps.

The company also said its critics were attacking the company "to serve the interest of certain parties."

ZTE particularly questioned the claim of Jose de Venecia III that its offer was inferior to that of his company, Amsterdam Holdings Inc. (AHI), and that it won the contract by bribing Commission on Elections Chair Benjamin Abalos Sr.

AHI offered a $240-million proposal, which it said would be at no cost to the government.

"He claims to have been shocked and appalled by the bribe offer, but in the same breath he said he met with the official six more times and went to Shenzhen and checked in the hotel recommended by ZTE," the Chinese company said.

"He even claims to have seen the contract before it was signed. It seems contradictory that he continued to attend these alleged meetings and is making these accusations only after losing the deal, while claiming that he is not using his political influence," ZTE said.

"These fantastic details in the news seem designed to spark controversy and take the public's attention away from the real issues, which are these: What are the government's requirements? Who has the best technology and track record for building it? Who can provide the best financial package to implement it?" the statement said.

Riza T. Olchondra

JDV son's firm petitions SC for copy …

From page A1

ter Abalos was accused of brokering the deal and receiving kickbacks and sexual favors from ZTE, a claim that he has denied.

At a Senate hearing, Finance Secretary Margarito Teves told senators yesterday that Ms Arroyo could still cancel the broadband deal considering that no final agreement has been signed.

The President has said she is willing to defer or cancel the project depending on her Cabinet's recommendation.

Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile cautioned Ms Arroyo against rushing to cancel the Chinese project just because they were taking a lot of heat from the negative the media campaign launched by the losing bidders.

Right to information

Invoking its constitutional right to information, AHI and its president Nathaniel Sauz said there was a need to make the NBN contract and related documents public because of the amount involved and the project's significance.

The petitioners said they had asked the DOTC and the Commission on Information and Communication Technology for copies of the contract, but there had been no action on their request.

AHI lawyer Adrian Sugay said that if the transaction proved to be aboveboard and beneficial to the people, his clients would back off.

At the forum, De Venecia said the ZTE contract he saw in China listed a project cost of $262 million, when, in fact, the "tangible assets" referring to the NBN project only amounted to $130 million.

"What was shown to me was a contract with a significant difference of $130 million. The $130 million relates to some expense that cannot be explained," he said.

He said he decided to come out with the truth about the ZTE contract when he saw that its cost had ballooned to $329 million.

Abalos has refused to comment on the matter for now. In a phone interview, he said he would like to know first De Venecia's exact statements before he comments on the issue.

Legal action

In a statement, however, Abalos said he would "prefer to confront De Venecia in a proper forum, rather than committing to further debates in mass media."

He said his legal action against De Venecia was already being prepared by his lawyers.

De Venecia said he went to Shenzhen, China, sometime in December 2006 to meet with Abalos and ZTE officials to talk about the proposed NBN project for the Philippines.

He said that when Abalos and the ZTE officials showed him the technical specifications of the proposed network design, he thought at first that the ZTE estimate was not very far from his own figures.

The ZTE contract cost was pegged at $262 million while his firm, AHI, had been proposing to the DOTC to implement the project at $240 million.

But when he faxed the same specifications to the AHI office to confirm the contents, his employees said the ZTE's estimate of the contract in Manila only totaled $130 million.

Commission

De Venecia said he immediately brought the matter up with Abalos because he did not want to assume a $262-million loan from China, which has about $130 million of unaccounted costs.

At some point at the meeting, according to De Venecia, Abalos "pounded his fist" on the table and told ZTE officials that "we need the money now."

De Venecia said Abalos wanted ZTE to quickly release the money that was to serve as the "commission."

But ZTE chair Yu Yong explained that the funds could not be disbursed until a contract for their release was signed with the Chinese Export-Import Bank, according to De Venecia.

ZTE executive director Fan Yang, he said, also asked Abalos back: "But what about the money we have already given you?"

Before the meeting in China, De Venecia said he had met with Abalos, at the Comelec chair's request, at the Wack Wack Golf and Country Club in Mandaluyong City to talk about a potential partnership on the NBN project.

De Venecia said Abalos had proposed a collaboration with him to provide the NBN infrastructure and to extend it to the fourth-to fifth-class municipalities.

The AHI proposal to the DOTC, De Venecia said, had only included chartered cities, and the first- to second-class municipalities.

Offer of $10 million

After discussing about the possibility of Abalos having a stake in AHI, the Comelec chair asked him to back off from the NBN project in exchange for $10 million, according to De Venecia.

"I was taken aback at the audacity of a [public] official offering me to back off [from the project] for monetary considerations. I would have understood if he asked me to back off because my proposal was problematic. The sheer audacity to ask me to back off is a very serious issue," the businessman said.

Something exclusive is coming your way in Inquirer Sunday Lifestyle.

Don't miss the September 16 issue of the Inquirer.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

PNP officials brace for pro-Erap rallies

From page A1

economic progress of our country."

But Rep. Rufus Rodriguez, spokesperson of Estrada's Puwersa ng Masang Pilipino, said that whatever the verdict, "there will be no destabilization … there will be no violence."

Police forces have been placed on full alert.

"What we are guarding against is the presence of possible saboteurs who might infiltrate the ranks of demonstrators and create trouble, which later may be blamed on the government," said Deputy Director Reynaldo Varilla of the Philippine National Police.

Rightist plot denied

PNP Deputy Director General Avelino Razon dismissed newspaper reports (not in the INQUIRER) of an alleged rightist plot to kill Estrada and blame it on the communists.

"We are now trying to verify it. But so far there is no credence to the assertion that there is a group out to assassinate the former president," he told reporters.

Razon also downplayed the ability of pro-Estrada quarters to gather sufficient numbers for rallies tomorrow.

He predicted that the number of protesters would not match those who stormed Malacañang in May 2001. "They won't be able to generate that many people," he said.

During the so-called Edsa Tres in 2001, thousands of pro-Estrada ralliers marched from the Edsa Shrine to Malacañang in an attempt to oust President Macapagal-Arroyo. They were dispersed, leading to the deaths of four people and injuries to hundreds of others.

Threat imagined

Presidential Legal Adviser Sergio Apostol also squelched rumors of an alleged plot to kill Estrada, saying it was in Ms Arroyo's interest to keep him alive.

"Not true. Why would Malacañang engage in such violence?" said Apostol, accusing the Estrada camp of creating an imagined threat. "They wanted to create a martyr out of Erap … that's their agenda," Apostol said.

He challenged the Estrada camp to prove the existence of "Operation Cleanup," which was reported yesterday to be a creation of hawks in the Arroyo Cabinet to allegedly eliminate any threat to the administration.

"They should come up with proof, not just allegations because we're giving him full security. The members of the PNP have been giving him all the protection he needs round the clock," said Apostol.

No TV coverage

Apostol agreed with the Sandiganbayan decision not to allow a live coverage of the verdict on Estrada's plunder case tomorrow.

"Live coverage is really banned and prohibited in court," said the former regional trial court judge.

The Philippines follows the American system. "What they usually do is to send cartoonists," he said.

Tomorrow, Apostol said Ms Arroyo would stay put in the Palace and forgo her presidential engagements.

Binay granted a permit for the rally organized by the Oust Gloria Coalition, a group of opposition followers and Estrada loyalists, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., said Lito Anzures, his political adviser.

Should the promulgation not push through as scheduled, the permit would still apply "even as late as October, or whenever the Sandiganbayan decides to hand down its decision," Anzures said. *With reports from DJ Yap, Alcuin Papa, Michael Lim Ubac, Allison W. Lopez, Jennette I. Andrade, Tina G. Santos, Christian V. Esguerra and Beverly T. Natividad*

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo is welcomed by Davao City Mayor Rodrigo Duterte and Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro upon her arrival in Davao City from the Apec summit in Sydney.

MALACAÑANG PHOTO

It's hello, goodbye for traveling GMA

From page A1

visits to New York where she will speak at a women's forum and Texas where US President George W. Bush will host an Asean gathering.

Ms Arroyo said she was leaving on Sept. 28 to attend the women's leaders forum in New York upon the invitation of US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice.

From New York, Ms Arroyo will proceed to Shandong and Shanghai in China, then to Mumbai and New Delhi in India in one swing.

The President will travel to Singapore in November to attend the summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) and she might proceed to Dubai.

She will attend a United Nations climate change convention in Bali, Indonesia, in December.

Ms Arroyo will also make visits to Spain and England sometime in December.

In January, Ms Arroyo and other Asean leaders will be in Texas, Bush's home state, for the commemorative anniversary of US-Asean relations.

Cheap medicines from India

Bush has invited the Asean leaders to his father's library at Texas University and his ranch in Texas.

Ms Arroyo said she would be returning the state visit of the Indian president and will discuss the purchase of cheap medicines.

"India is a country we have to engage and we really have been dealing with them too much in the past decades. We have to be BPO (business process outsourcing) partners and (discuss) the half-price medicines," she told reporters in an interview on Saturday.

India and the Philippines have become major players in the global BPO business, which includes call centers.

Her visit will be significant because India is now headed by a woman president, according to Ms Arroyo.

"India is very rich. It's growing so we have to see what opportunities we can get from there. I told (the chief of presidential protocol, Ambassador Marciano) Jun Paynor that I wanted to bring businessmen who will buy pharmaceuticals," she said.

She said it should not just be Philippine International Trading Corp. (PITC) which should be importing medicines.

"I think the PITC has already demonstrated that it can be profitable so the private sector should be engaged in that business of half-priced medicine," she said.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No.4318, Series of 2007

ISSN 0116-2642
INQUIRER
Vol. 22 No. 275
Email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Website: www.inquirer.net/opinion
OPINION
Text us your feedback: inquirer opi name/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)
THE PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, INC. has its business and editorial offices at
•Chino Roces Ave corner Yague and Mascardo Sts., Makati City
•P.O. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City
•Our telephone numbers are 897-8808 connecting all departments
•Editorial Fax 897-4793 / 897-4794 •Advertising 897-4807
•Circulation 527-3342 / 527-3348 / 528-0183 / 528-0186 and 528-0213 / Fax: 528-02-34.
•Subscription Hotline 896-6000
•100% soy ink•

Judgment Day

THE LONG-AWAITED DECISION ON THE ESTRADA plunder case will be handed down tomorrow, and everybody is awaiting it with the proverbial bated breath. The accused, former President Joseph Estrada, has been having sleepless nights, and his situation has been aggravated by worry over the condition of his ailing 102-year-old mother. The nation just wants to have a closure to this highly divisive case.

EDITORIALS

Either way the case ends—conviction or acquittal—the government expects some civil disturbance to take place, and is preparing for it. The civil society groups that were largely responsible for Estrada's fall from power in 2001 cannot see how the Sandiganbayan can return a verdict of not guilty when the damning evidence which were presented with crystal-clear clarity at the impeachment trial of the former president in the Senate were also the evidence presented at the court trial.

The defense contends that the prosecution has failed to prove that Estrada is guilty beyond reasonable doubt. But even some of the former president's leading lawyers, like former Sen. Rene Saguisag, seem to be resigned to a guilty verdict. Saguisag said, "We don't expect a lower court (the Sandiganbayan) to tell the Supreme Court that it is wrong."

A verdict of not guilty could give rise to some complications, including the possibility of Estrada claiming the presidency back from Ms Macapagal-Arroyo, although he has said he would not do that. The fact is that his unserved portion of the six-year presidential term has lapsed, and there is no way that he can turn back the hands of time.

A verdict of guilty could inflame the supporters of Estrada who still wields considerable political clout, and could spark a repeat of "Edsa 3," the rising of the enraged masses who came to within inches of taking over Malacañang. The military and the police have said they are prepared for a similar eventuality on Wednesday.

Months before the scheduled promulgation of the decision, calls were made for the grant of pardon to Estrada in the event he is convicted. But Estrada himself has said he would not accept a pardon for that would practically mean an admission of guilt. He said he would appeal a possible decision of conviction to the Supreme Court.

A grant of presidential pardon that would be almost simultaneous with the handing down of a guilty verdict would send the wrong signal to the nation and the world. It would seem as if the government is not serious in punishing grafters and corrupt officials.

The best way to put a closure to Estrada plunder case is just to await the decision of the Sandiganbayan and to let justice and the rule of law take their course. Violence and extraordinary measures have no place in a democratic, civilized society.

Victorious

THEY BURIED LUCIANO PAVAROTTI, THE GLOBAL opera superstar, on Saturday after a final, tear-stained standing ovation at somber funeral rites in his hometown of Modena, Italy. Death has stilled the live voice of one of the best tenors the world has ever known, but his recorded voice-and his memory-will live on for as long as recording devices work, and for as long as the world loves good music.

Superlatives have been used to describe Pavarotti, the best loved and most celebrated tenor since Caruso: "one of the world's greatest voices," "best-selling classical artist" (100 million records sold since the 1960s) and "an enormous crossover celebrity" whose appeal went far beyond the confines of classical opera. But more than a singer, Pavarotti was a humanitarian, a charismatic personality, a real human being.

Pavarotti took opera out of the stuffed-shirt confines of the opera houses of the elite, and by singing with such artists as Bono, Elton John and the Spice Girls brought opera to the masses and even the hiphop set. He captured a global audience for opera when he sang the aria "Nessun Dorma" (Nobody Sleeps) from Puccini's "Turandot" for football's 1990 World Cup finals. The highly successful "Three Tenors" concerts he had with Placido Domingo and Jose Carreras reached 1.5 billion people, and filled stadiums.

The last line of "Nessun Dorma" goes: "All'alba vincero"—"At dawn I will be victorious." Truly, Pavarotti has been victorious, his voice has conquered death, and he will be remembered for as long as the world loves good music.

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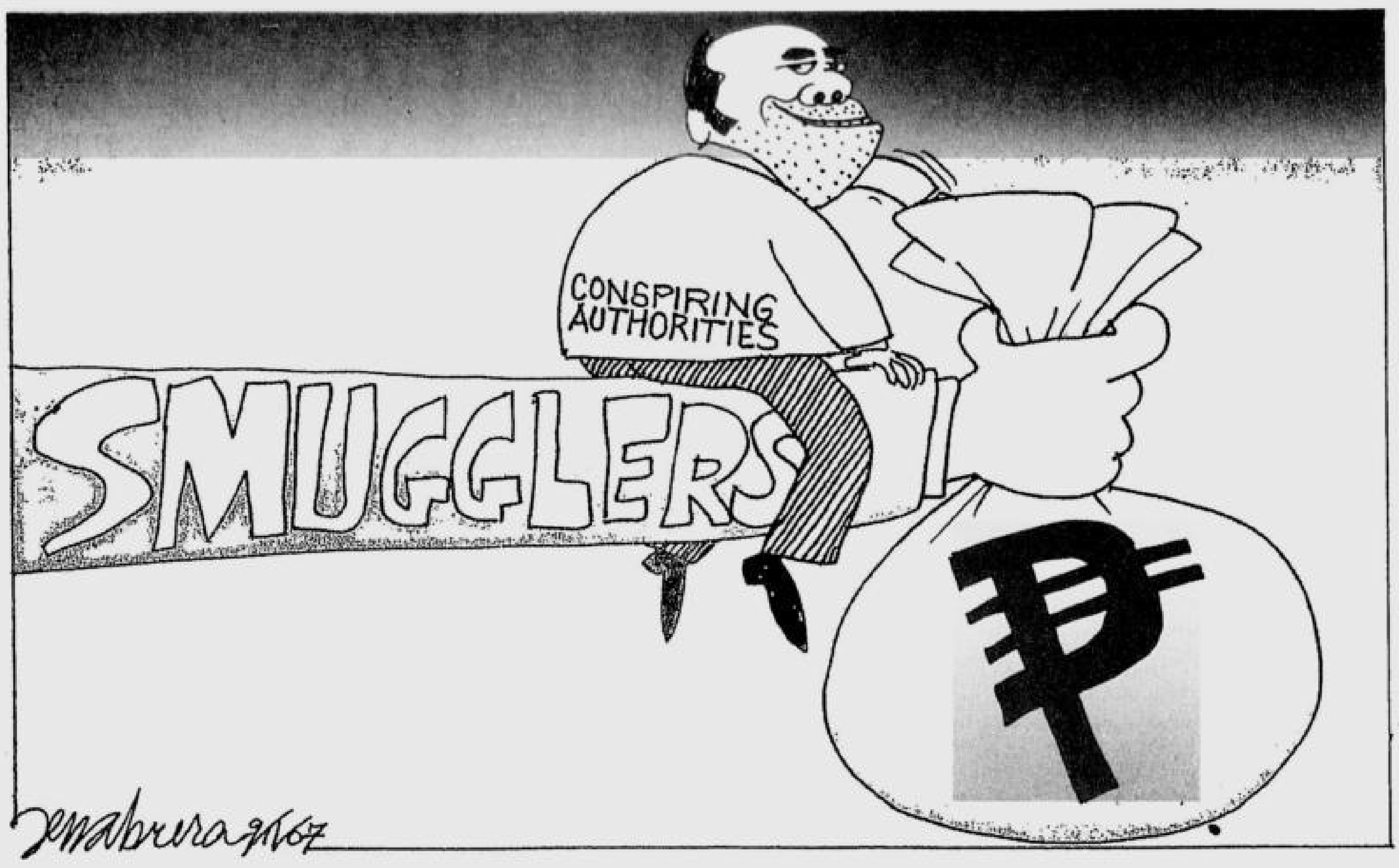

Phantom verdicts

VIEWPOINT

Juan L. Mercado

"SENTENCE FIRST, VERDICT AFTERWARDS," Alice is told in "Wonderland." Meanwhile, a "never-never land" fog here blankets the Sandiganbayan on the eve of its handing down the verdict on the P4-billion plunder charge lodged against ex-President Joseph Estrada.

Midget surveys, plus skewed commentary, on a verdict that hasn't been promulgated swamped media.

The prosecution screwed up, claimed Sen. Peter Alan Cayetano's "verdict." *Onli in da Pilipins?*

"Wait for the courts," counseled Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines president Angel Lagdameo and ex-President Fidel V. Ramos.

On Wednesday, the Sandiganbayan will announce its verdict. We'll know then if Estrada walks, or appeals to the Supreme Court.

"You shall not defer to the great but, in righteousness, shall you judge your neighbor" is the yardstick Leviticus imposes. It resonates in "Dies Irae" (Day of Wrath). That's the Gregorian chant sequence on the final judgement for all mortals, the elderly, like us, will recall.

Who thought of Judgment Day at Estrada's swearing-in at the Luneta in June 1998? Ouster, detention and trial have long dissipated the euphoria. "Yesterday, all my troubles seemed so far away," John Lennon sang.

In his inaugural address Erap vowed that no one could clip his powers. Except himself, as it turned out. Indeed, we are our own worst enemies. Gambling, boozing, womanizing and "friends" greased the skids for People Power 2 and tomorrow's verdict.

Ferdinand Marcos ducked the indignity of being fingerprinted by scrambling aboard an escape helicopter ahead of People Power crowds. An amnesty cut short the trial for World War II collaboration of President Jose Laurel.

In contrast, Estrada is the first president whose trial ran the full course. Refusal of a "golden parachute" exile dangled by President Macapagal-Arroyo, "underscores my innocence," Erap repeats on verdict day's eve. His wristband, with the presidential seal, symbolizes this belief.

"From now on, I shall take care not to lose wars," Winston Churchill murmured after the Nuremberg war trial verdicts. On Wednesday, the almost six-year trial ends—for now. Justices heard 155 witnesses, plowed through documents—and weathered what constitutionalist scholar Joaquin Bernas noted as part of Estrada's defense: to "paint the court black."

Focus on the ex-president all but blotted out from public awareness other co-defendants: Eduardo Serapio, who denies laundering graft booty, and Sen. Jinggoy Estrada, "Jingle Bells" of the aborted impeachment trial. The third is the most controversial: gambling buddy Charlie "Atong" Ang, who swapped a guilty plea for a clipped jail term. "In the end, the concern of Erap's family about Atong Ang proved justified," writes former Malacañang chief of staff Aprodicio Laquian in his book "The Erap Tragedy: Tales from the Snakepit." [Ang] was probably the one most responsible for Erap's downfall."

Will tomorrow's verdict trigger trouble? Religious and civic leaders caution restraint. Estrada is correct to scoff as "overkill" the massing of riot police. Not that partisan hotheads are incapable of mayhem. "But, hey. Who'd dash to the barricades for Jose Velarde?" asked the Cebu Daily News.

Behind the smog of partisan claims, the issue of accountability persists. Accountability holds that everyone, from president to bootblack, must answer for his deeds. It is the signature of a mature democracy. Pontius Pilate washing hands, while seated on the "Gabbatha" (judgment seat) is about jettisoning accountability.

Last-minute exchanges reflect this concern. A guilty verdict offers a "second chance" for the country after it failed to procure "swift and timely justice" for dictator Marcos and his cabal, state prosecutor Dennis Villa-Ignacio said in an interview with The Australian newspaper. Conviction would prove that "state and administration have the political will to go after (the) corrupt," he said. "If we let this go unpunished … forget about good governance. This is the last opportunity that we, as a nation, have to show that we can enforce the law regardless of personalities involved."

Irreversible decay after Wednesday's verdict maybe rhetoric. But we're saddled with a "long list of pardoned criminals (Romeo Jalosjos) and a short list of big fish punished for wrongdoing." That's reality. And welshing on accountability reinforces the "culture of impunity" that ravages lives here.

Thus, the Makati Business Club and related groups insisted that Chairman Benjamin Abalos of the Commission on Elections must answer for his role in the notorious broadband contract. Did impunity from penalties for the Mega-Pacific election computer scandal embolden him? What about Transportation Secretary Leandro Mendoza?

Impunity cloaks the killers of Navy Ensign Philip Pestano who flayed misuse of Navy ships for smuggling. Murderers of Indonesian priest Franciscus Madhu, SVD haven't been brought to court. Military rogues who abducted activist Jonas Burgos or wiretapped for their political masters haven't been tracked down. And can we punish those who beheaded 10 Marines in Basilan, if the affluent get easy absolution?

"Closure" of the Estrada case would advance the common good. All agree on that. After Wednesday, we'll see whether a court decision, as in a democracy worth its name, provides such closure. "To whom much is given, much shall be required." That gauge will hold in the debates that will erupt on Thursday—and beyond

"This is the law of life," the old Pilipino proverb reminds us. "That he who has a debt must pay."

(E-mail: juanlmercado@gmail.com)

Sleep is outlawed

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

POLITICS TAKES A BACK SEAT TO ART TODAY, as well it should: There is one story that's perfect for opera. It has melodrama, a richly ironic theme, and much poignancy, if not tragedy, in the end. It's the story of Luciano Pavarotti.

I've always thought there was something almost divinely ordained in his making "Nessun Dorma" his theme song the way Frank Sinatra made "My Way" his way. "Nessun Dorma," of course, has not produced a single fatality whereas "My Way," well, I seriously propose that it come with a warning in the song lists of karaoke bars that says, "Extremely hazardous to health." But that's another story.

"Nessun Dorma" comes from Giacomo Puccini's "Turandot," an opera based on a Chinese fable. It tells the story of a Chinese princess, Turandot, who proposes to wed any suitor who could answer three riddles—on pain of death. This naturally produces a bloodbath given the dimwitted, though handsome (the two often go together), crew that falls in line to gain her favor.

A prince comes to Peking looking for his deposed father at the very moment the latest suitor is about to be beheaded. In the commotion, an old man is thrown to the ground and helped up by his servant girl. The prince recognizes the old man as his long-lost father and the girl as a former court maiden, Liu. Liu is the only one who has remained loyal to his father. He asks her why and she answers: A long time ago at court, he, the prince, had smiled at her. Now, if that doesn't melt your heart, I don't know what will.

But the prince is smitten by Turandot, despite her seeming cruelty or probably because of it—the nobility have always been distinguished by the lack of it. He presses his suit and gets to answer the three riddles, being an exception to the handsome-but-dimwitted rule. Shocked by the result, the Icy Princess, as Turandot is called, balks at giving herself up. The prince, taking pity, says if she can answer one question in turn by next day she could have his head, too. That question is: What is his name?

That night, Turandot decrees that no one may sleep. If she can't, nobody else may. The prince, who can't sleep either, eager to claim his prize next day, exults: No one may sleep, sleep is forbidden, sleep is outlawed. *Nessun dorma.*

The imperial guards soon arrest the prince's father and Liu after someone tells the court they were seen talking to him. They torture Liu, but she refuses to yield his name. Grabbing a guard's knife, she stabs herself.

The prince comes to claim his spoils next day, but his spoils turn out to be more than spoiled, she is icy. But he soon (the feminists are not going to like this) thaws her with a kiss. She begs him leave with his secret. He decides instead to reveal himself—he is Calaf, son of Timur—and places his life in her hands. Comes the moment of revelation, when Turandot has to tell the world who he is, and she says:" His name is—Love." The End.

If you find this soapy, well, the late and much lamented Rolando Tinio, a great lover of life, God and opera, did think he could bring Puccini to the Filipino public with some translation because he figured it suited the Filipino temperament to a "T." Filipinos, he figured, would feel right at home in that luxurious sentimentalism. He missed his mark by a mile, for reasons best left for another day. Opera remained outside the Filipino ken; hip-hop did better.

But to go back, Pavarotti's life follows a similar trajectory. He might as well have been Calaf. The obvious parallel, of course, is that Pavarotti himself was smitten by an Icy Princess in the form of opera and pressed his suit on her on pain of death. The lives of opera singers, notably Maria Callas, must certainly suggest that pain of death is not grossly exaggerated. And having wooed her, conquered her magnificently. Each time Pavarotti sang his theme song, I kind of had that image of him poised to snatch victory, no one may sleep, sleep is forbidden, *nessun dorma*.

But the less obvious parallel, and probably the truer one, is that Pavarotti ended up winning the wrong Muse. Gifted with the voice of heaven itself, he did the seemingly impossible, which was to make opera popular in these days of miracle and techno. But that same achievement also exacted a heavy price. Toward the end of his days, Pavarotti was accused of capitulating to commerce, canceling more artistically, if not financially, rewarding concerts in favor of multimillion-paycheck-drawing ones, like the "Three Tenors." An accusation that could not always be dispelled by the (valid) justification that what opera needed was popularizing. There are two ways of popularizing: pandering to the lowest common denominator or raising an audience to a higher level. It wasn't always clear what he was doing.

This opera in short has the theme, "Be careful what you pray for, you might just get it." My sympathies in "Turandot" have always been with Liu, not with Turandot. I've always thought Calaf was an ass for being so blind and deluded he couldn't see true beauty, not to speak of true love, where it lay. Not quite incidentally Puccini died before finishing "Turandot" (it was completed by others) and providentially shortly after Liu dies and the prince reproaches Turandot for her tyranny. The first time it was performed in 1926, only Puccini's version was played. The great Arturo Toscanini stopped the orchestra after the words, "*Liu, poesia*," and announced to the audience: "Here, the opera ends because at this point the maestro died."

Maybe Pavarotti should have stopped there, too.

But he is dead now, and we are all the poorer for it. I don't know why no Muse has come out to decree that for this whole month at least no one may sleep, sleep is outlawed, *nessun dorma*.

Murky alphabet soup

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AS THE NATION AWAITS THE VERDICT OF THE Sandiganbayan on the plunder charge against former President Joseph Estrada, this column joins the plea for our people to stay calm and accept it, whatever it is. Both sides, the Estrada camp and the government, can have final recourse in the Supreme Court. Whatever the verdict may be, it must be respected.

* * *

It is good that both President Macapagal-Arroyo and China's President Hu Jintao have agreed to review the controversial broadband project bagged by China's ZTE Corp. This case is like an artichoke in that there are many layers, such as the loss of the original document in China and the alleged bribe offered to Jose de Venecia III and former Neda Director General Romulo Neri by Comelec Chair Benjamin Abalos. But the heart of the issue is that the contract or deal seems to have been arrived at under nebulous circumstances, triggering all kinds of deserved allegations and suspicions. It would be good for Hu Jintao to investigate the alleged unethical behavior of ZTE, in the light of that country's high-profile campaign against graft and corruption. On GMA's part, it's good to review this deal as it would provide crucial lessons. From the way she sounded in Sydney, there's reason to believe the ZTE deal could still be scrapped.

* * *

Rescinding the deal without through investigation and review, however, is not healthy as it would look arbitrary. With the collapse of the WTO talks, bilateral relations have become so important and countries are entering into trade agreements and treaties with each other. Recall that the government nullified the Naia 3 contract due to onerous provisions inserted during the time of President Joseph Estrada, but it affected our relations with Germany. But I think China won't take it as affront if the ZTE deal were to be abrogated, so long as a thorough and impartial review is held.

By the way, some people I've spoken to have wondered whether the Americans could be behind the torpedoing of the ZTE deal. They recall that an American firm was the third losing bidder and that US Ambassador Kristie Kenney protested the right after the ZTE deal was announced. Of course, Joey de Venecia is also giving some folks the same impression: that his firm is just out to torpedo the ZTE deal to favor his AHI whose cheaper broadband proposal was sidelined by ZTE. This alphabet soup is getting murkier.

* * *

The Mariological Society of the Philippines (MSP) might well start convincing our people to read Chapter 13 of Pope Benedict XVI's "God & The World," titled "The Mother of God," a copy of which Fr. Catalino Arevalo, S.J. gave to some friends. They wish to announce that tomorrow, Sept. 12, the MSP will be launched at the Carmelite Monastery in Lipa City, Batangas, under Bishop Ramon Arguelles. The MSP was conceptualized by Sr. Milagros R. Gregorio, who's with the Pontificia International Marian Academy in Rome, and famous "Mariologist" Fr. Arevalo. It was inspired by the Catholic Bishops Conferences of the Philippines' 1974 pastoral letter, titled "Ang Mahal na Birhen," which stressed that the "outstanding characteristic of the Church in the Philippines is to be 'a pueblo amante de Maria—a people in love with Mary.'" The MSP aims to promote knowledge, love and devotion to her both on the scientific and pastoral levels and its "animating body" is composed of bishops, priests, sisters and lay persons who love Mary and have a theological and pastoral knowledge of her.

* * *

Recently I've had occasion to chat with some people who have turned personal tragedies into stories of unselfish care and concern for others, amid the pessimism that prevails in society. I'm talking about Inang Naulila sa Anak (INA), which was founded by Gina de Venecia soon after the death of her 16-year old daughter KC in December 2004, and the Cancer Resource & Wellness Community (Carewell) that Bobbit Suntay and Dely Fernandez, husband and mother, respectively, of Jackie Fernandez-Suntay, founded after her death due to ovarian cancer.

First, about Carewell.

In July 2003, Jackie, then a pretty 35-year old doctor, had just finished her fellowship in opthalmology at Harvard University in Boston, while her husband Bobbit, then 41, a former principal at Xavier School in Greenhills, San Juan, was working on his PhD in education also at Harvard. They had been married for over eight years when Jackie was diagnosed with cancer. She sought treatment at a cancer institute in Boston and in the course of their stay, she and Bobbit were introduced to The Wellness Community (TWC), a US-based non-profit organization with 22 communities across the continent, which is dedicated to providing free emotional support, education and hope for cancer-stricken people and their loved ones. The Suntays, moved by the benefits they experienced in TWC, thought of putting up a similar community in the Philippines. The couple began to talk to the people behind TWC.

Tragedy struck: Jackie's parents, Dely and Ace Fernandez, visited with them in Boston for many months while she was being treated, but soon after Ace's return to the Philippines, he was diagnosed with pancreatic cancer. In November of 2004, Jackie returned to Manila to help take care of her father until his death in February 2005, only to be claimed by the disease herself the following October.

For Bobbit, the deaths of his wife and father-in-law came on top of the previous deaths of his own parents, Angel and Luz Suntay, also of cancer. But incredibly all these tragedies, the young widower was able to turn around: as he put it, "It's all about turning lemons to lemonade." Putting his doctoral studies on hold, he and his mother-in-law Dely set up Carewell in September, 2006, in a floor in the Fernandez family-owned building on De la Rosa and Esteban Streets in Legaspi Village, Makati City. Formally opened last January, it's now a haven of emotional, spiritual and psychological support for cancer victims and their families (more triumphs).

'Women's issues' in the bar exam

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

"THE CITY MAYOR ISSUES AN EXECUTIVE ORDER declaring that the city promotes responsible parenthood and upholds family planning. He prohibits all hospitals operated by the city from prescribing the use of artificial methods of contraception, including condoms, pills, intrauterine devices and surgical sterilization. As a result, poor women in this city lost their access to affordable family planning programs. Private clinics, however, continue to render family planning (counseling) and devices to paying clients.

"(a) Is the executive order in any way constitutionally infirm? Explain.

"(b) Is the Philippines in breach of any obligation under international law? Explain.

"(c) May the Commission on Human Rights order the mayor to stop the implementation of the executive order? Explain."

This was Question No. 2 in the Political and International Law exam given last Sept. 2 as part of this year's bar exams. This and other questions are currently making the rounds of the e-mail circuit, especially among women's advocates, because, not only is it unusual to see gender-related issues covered in the exáms for future lawyers, the questions also tread on issues and concerns not normally thought of as matters of legality or even constitutionality.

Credit for this attempt to broaden the understanding and appreciation of law must go to 2007 Bar Exam Committee chair Justice Adolfo Azcuna. As Sarah Lou Arriola, director for special projects of the Ateneo Human Rights Center, who told me about the questions, asserts: "These questions have changed the landscape of the bar exams. It is a great effort on the part of Justice Azcuna to mainstream gender issues in the law profession."

* * *

HERE are the other gender-related questions in the Sept. 2 exams:

Question No. 4: In 1993, historians confirmed that during World War II, "comfort women" were forced into serving the Japanese military. These women were either abducted or lured by false promises of jobs as cooks or waitresses, and eventually forced against their will to have sex with Japanese soldiers on a daily basis during the course of the war, and often suffered from severe beatings and venereal diseases. The Japanese government contends that the "comfort stations" were run as "onsite military brothels" (or prostitution houses) by private operators, and not by the Japanese military. There were many Filipina "comfort women."

(a) Name at least one basic principle or norm of international humanitarian law that was violated by the Japanese military in the treatment of the "comfort women."

(b) The surviving Filipina "comfort women" demand that the Japanese government apologize and pay them compensation. However, under the 1951 San Francisco Peace Agreement—the legal instrument that ended the state of war between Japan and Allied Forces—all the injured states, including the Philippines, received war reparations and, in return, waived all claims against Japan arising from the war. Is that a valid defense?

(c) The surviving Filipina "comfort women" sue the Japanese government for damages before Philippine courts. Will that case prosper?

* * *

QUESTION No. 5: The Destilleria Felipe Segundo is famous for its 15-year-old rum, which it has produced and marketed successfully for the past 70 years. Its latest commercial advertisement uses the line: "*Nakatikim ka na ba ng kinse anyos*? (Have you tasted a 15-year old?)" Very soon, activist groups promoting women's and children's rights were up in arms against the advertisement.

(a) All advertising companies in the Philippines have formed an association, the Philippine Advertising Council, and have agreed to abide by all the ethical guidelines and decisions by the council. In response to the protests, the council orders the pull-out of the "kinse anyos" advertising campaign. Can Destilleria Felipe Segundo claim that its constitutional rights are thus infringed?

(b) One of the militant groups, the Amazing Amazonas, call on all GOCCs to boycott any newspaper, radio or TV station that carries "kinse anyos" advertisements. They call on all government nominees in sequestered corporations to block any advertising funds allocated for any newspaper, radio or TV station. Can the GOCCs and sequestered corporations validly comply?

* * *

AS ANY lawyer or judge will tell you, there aren't any "right" or "wrong" answers to these questions. The "rightness" or "wrongness" of any position or opinion, after all, depends on the arguments presented, the legal precedents, documents and sources quoted, and the witnesses presented. But legal points or viewpoints can be made only if the lawyer is aware of the legal scholarship underlying these positions.

I am especially grateful for the question regarding the possible "breach of any obligation under international law" by the Philippines, as indicated in Question No. 2. I believe the "international law" alluded to here is the CEDAW, or the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women," which the Philippines has signed and ratified. CEDAW is an international human rights treaty that, among other things, "affirms and upholds women's right to health services including access to all family planning methods." Let's see how many future lawyers cited the right provision, mentioned CEDAW and the Philippine government's obligations as a signatory state, or even knew about CEDAW. Maybe those bar takers who never gave a thought to gender and the law will now see women in a new light.

And while this is just a first step, women should be properly grateful to Azcuna for showing the way in mainstreaming gender issues in the study and application of the law.

Lacson and the texture of our experience

NEWSSTAND

John Nery

AS THE LATE JAIME CARDINAL SIN'S ASSISTANT in 1986 and as rector of the Edsa Shrine in 2001, Balanga Bishop Socrates Villegas played a key role in both People Power epiphanies. I regard him as a keeper of the Edsa flame—the conviction, shared by the millions who camped out on the streets, that the democratic restoration is nourished in part by Christian faith.

So what was he doing at the San Carlos Seminary in June 2005, negotiating with serial testifier Vidal Doble? It could be that Villegas had lost his way, forgetting that People Power as we invented it worked precisely because the Catholic Church gave sanctuary to renegade truth-tellers.

But it is also possible that it was Villegas who did the right, the Edsa, thing, and those who criticize him now because of his role in reuniting Doble with his real wife in Camp Aguinaldo who have proved inconstant. The bishop's two-page statement to the three Senate committees hearing the Doble case may not be enough. Perhaps, to educate those of us who think we already know why he did what he did, he should take the stand.

* * *

I am grateful to the many readers who e-mailed me in response to the column on the crisis in the Couples for Christ movement. Invariably, the responses (including a comment in my Newsstand blog and several coursed through the de facto "national broadband network," the SMS) were thoughtful and anguished and real, born of genuine struggle.

A few, however, still tried to play the blame game. They retained the same even tone as the others, but they slipped in a reading of the crisis based on personalities alone.

Certainly, personality differences played a role in the CFC split.(The spiritual is personal.) These differences partly explain the emotional turmoil roiling the CFC; as the provincial of a religious order reminded me last week, the same emotionally supercharged atmosphere enveloped the CICM (the Congregation of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, familiarly known as the Belgian Fathers) five years ago.

The CICM crisis ended with the formation of a new religious order, the Missionaries of Jesus. But personality conflicts aside, there was a genuine difference in the group's understanding of mission. The same thing with the CFC crisis: At bottom, it is a question of spirituality—that tradition of practices, that community of experience, that sense of proportion—that distinguishes one religious group from another.

* * *

Every now and then, I hear people complain about the quality of Ping Lacson's exposés. In sum, the complaints say: "*Kulang.*" There may be a gun there somewhere, but it certainly isn't smoking. Perhaps it's because his exposés are prepared by ex-journalists and designed to meet journalistic, not legal, standards of evidence.

Almost six years ago, Lacson stood up in the Senate to accuse Jose Miguel Arroyo of running what the former police chief called the "Department of the Underground." Lacson's privilege speech came almost exactly a year after Teofisto Guingona's "I accuse" speech, which famously led, two months later, to Joseph Estrada's impeachment trial.

I was still editing "Talk of the Town" then. On Oct. 21, 2001, I took the liberty of comparing the two speeches. I wrote: "He [Lacson] uses media-savvy phrases: no parallels in history, the Department of the Underground, the President's bed, and so on. And his main argument against Mike Arroyo's Department of the Underground makes for great audio: 'Its essence is to make the First Gentleman an honorable person before the camera. And off camera, it is to bring him the juicy slices of the bureaucracy.'"

I concluded: "The speech is vivid in language because it is vague on the evidence."

The same thing can be said about his other exposés; there is something there, something definitely worth writing about. But good enough to successfully prosecute a case?

That is why Lacson needs to fill in the blanks, himself, during Senate hearings, and why Sen. Richard Gordon (like him a contender for the presidency in 2010) lectured him on the ethics of testifying for the witness.

* * *

And yet it must be said: Even though they are (like most police cases) based on eminently recantable testimony, Lacson's exposés have had a substantial impact on the real world.

His 2005 exposé on the alleged involvement of the President's family in *jueteng*, for example, succeeded in stopping the illegal numbers game.

Last May, anti-*jueteng* crusader Isabela Gov. Grace Padaca told INQUIRER editors and reporters that the only time *jueteng* in her province stopped completely was after Lacson's privilege speech prompted a wild and wooly Senate probe. The game disappeared for about a year or so—proof positive that Lacson's exposés, inadequate as they seem to me, have a (temporary) chilling effect on crime and corruption.

* * *

I am certain that much of this effect can be traced back to media. Last week, I found myself in a school forum on career options in the industry. Apposite opening remarks by Ateneo de Manila's Anjo Lorenzana reminded me of a truth those of us who work full-time in media often forget or take for granted. "To be able to produce and reproduce culture and knowledge is of course political ... to be part of this industry means to be part of a powerful institution in society." Then the money quote from the scholar Roger Silverstone: "Media provide the texture of our experience." Ping!

* * *

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The ultimate goal

YOUNG BLOOD

Dorothea M. Ramizo

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.**

I AM JUST FEW MONTHS AWAY FROM COMPLETING MY master's degree in economics. But the reality of earning that degree at the age of 22 is only now starting to sink in.

Nowadays, I cannot help but arch my lips in a faint smile when I remember the dawns I spent deciphering the economic intuition behind mathematical equations expressed in Greek letters and the sunsets that slipped past unnoticed after a whole day of solving problem sets, often a futile exercise that resulted in answers that one of my professors dismissed as "far from truth." Back then, every time an important assignment was due or exams were just a week away or exam results were about to be released, I wore the face of someone who was desperately clinging for dear life. Now, with only two major requirements to fulfill—a research paper and a field exam—I feel that I am entitled to intermittent spells of euphoria and that I have every reason to be optimistic about the future. This is why I was disturbed when, a few days ago, as I was contemplating if the research topic I had in mind was worth pursuing and eventually land some space in an academic journal, a question came across my mind: Why did I go straight to graduate school after college?

The question brought me back to the day when I was 20 and about to leave the secure confines of the academe. I felt utterly lost and didn't know what to do with my life. Like any good graduate of a top university, a number of opportunities were before me. I had been invited for job interviews which could have ended in formal offers, if only I wasn't too lazy to attend them. I had passed the admission test to the law school that produces the country's top politicians and some of its best legal minds. And I had been awarded a fellowship grant for a master's degree.

I saw myself standing on a dirt road with three divergent paths before me. Unlike most of my batch mates who were itching to enter the corporate world and become tax-paying adults, it broke my heart to think that I might end up working in a company that would sap my youthful energies but pay me a pittance. To avoid this possibility, I was ready to suffer a few more years of penurious existence as a student making both ends meet on a meager allowance. So it was a toss-up between law school and graduate school.

Although the College of Law is but a stone's throw away from the School of Economics, what transpires behind its doors has always been a mystery to me. Horror stories about terror professors, ego-crushing oral recitations, and tomes of readings that have to be finished in a single night were more than enough to scare a girl who wore Spongebob shirts to school. Law school would be a totally new learning experience, I thought then, and I was not ready yet to sail through uncharted waters.

I didn't choose to enter graduate school because I thought it was the easiest among the three options. During my first two years in college, I would notice a small group of individuals past their teens who were always in the library, either frantically arguing about something written on a white sheet of paper (in graduate school, I learned that the "white sheet of paper" contains the dreaded problem set) or burying their noses in a pile of books with highfalutin titles. I soon found out that they were graduate students.

Thus, when the time came to make a decision, I told myself that if difficulties in life were unavoidable, I might as well endure them in a familiar environment. But no matter how flimsy my reason for engaging in a scholarly and lofty pursuit like getting a master's degree in economics, it turns out that I made the right decision.

After two semesters of memorizing theories, working out hordes of problem sets, and making sense of soporific journals, my harrowing experience in graduate school left me a psychological scar that marks the end of my childish view of life. It instilled in me a way of thinking that is guided by rigorous logic, untainted by prejudice and popular perception.

In taking my master's, I glimpsed where my heart lies: a goal which will not sap but instead invigorate my energies even how much of myself I pour into it, a direction which I can pursue regardless of whether I will get a pittance for my efforts. The study of economics can help me in this pursuit.

The ultimate goal of economics is to improve the living standards of people in their everyday lives. It is easy to forget this simple truth when one is struggling to pass an exam in econometrics. But now that I am about to leave the ivory tower of Diliman, I am starting to consider more seriously this ultimate goal.

Poverty presents itself to me in varying degrees, from satirical and absurd to utmost despondence. I once met a beggar who threatened to hex me if I didn't give her money. Another time, a beggar complained that the P5 I had given was too little.

Poverty, when it corrupts the innocence of the young, is most heart-wrenching. There are children wearing tattered clothes and no slippers who climb on board jeepneys to wipe the shoes of the passengers and ask for money. There are children who risk their lives running after buses to sell their wares to passengers.

A few months from now, I will find myself standing on a crossroads again. Before then I already know exactly what my mission in life is: to help alleviate poverty.

But how can I do this? Where should I start? Will the path I choose lead me to become like my professors who have the intellectual courage and moral ascendancy to assail dubious government contracts and uphold true social reform? Or will I be on the other side, a bureaucrat proposing unsound economic policies to serve the interest of the few?

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NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school, course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the position you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously published.

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The world must help Burma

MORE THAN 100 PEOPLE ARrested and detained, with fear of being tortured; 500-percent arbitrary increase in diesel and gasoline prices; a military government that is either unable or unwilling to reform; and a dreadful human rights environment—this is the sorry state of Burma (Myanmar) today.

The rare wave of protests inside Burma against the draconian fuel price hike started Aug. 23 in a quiet march of about 40 demonstrators led by members of the opposition National League for Democracy. The protesters were blocked by pro-junta thugs of the Union Solidarity Development Association and were then beaten up with bamboo sticks. About 30 people of this motley but brave group were arrested. The demonstration against fuel prices rippled to other cities and townships after that day.

As of this writing, the military junta of Burma is "too pre-occupied" with how to suppress all protest actions and hunt down those who oppose the price hike instead of initiating a dialogue to explain the hike. As usual, the junta is employing its brute force and hired thugs to intimidate anyone who opposes them. Compromises and dialogue are not among the virtues the generals in Burma possess. What prevails in Burma is the rule of the jungle: Might makes right.

What is sadder is, for years, the United Nations and the Asean have never done anything to quell the situation apart from issuing their usual feeble rhetoric of calling on "all parties to exercise restraint." They issue mild statements every time there is a crisis in Burma and skirt the roots of the problem. In most of their press releases, they simply express "disappointment" and "disgust," which the generals in Burma simply ignore. In the end, the generals get away with anything because those who are supposed to do—and can do—something are not doing enough.

UN Secretary-General Ban Kimoon has urged the Burmese junta to exercise restraint and called for a "constructive dialogue" with pro-democracy supporters. He needs to do more than this.

For the nth time, the UN issued a statement as if it were unaware that a UN Security Council (UNSC) resolution on Burma is a pending matter to resolve. The inclusion of Burma in the UNSC's formal agenda failed last year because China and Russia, along with South Africa, vetoed the resolution. The undemocratic "numbers game" in the UNSC reigns over the desire of the international community to see concrete reforms in Burma.

Now who is to be blamed? Where is China's voice—the avowed champion of oppressed peoples—in all these arrests happening in that territory? Where is the Asean which wants to build a caring and sharing community?

This new political upheaval in Burma augurs well for Burma's eventual liberation and the world must not be silent as it has been on Darfur. Surely, change is about to happen in Burma and it can be hastened if those who are supposed to act wake up from their deep slumber.

—EGOY BANS,
spokesperson,
Free Burma Coalition-Philippines,
Anonas Road, Quezon City

'Barya' campaign still very much on

WE REFER TO THE COLUMN item "Another case of ningas-kugon" written by Linda B. Bolido in The Consumer. (INQUIRER, 8/16/07) Bolido narrated her experience about not receiving exact change from a cashier in the Landmark Department Store.

We wish to react to Bolido's query on whether the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas' campaign to promote coin circulation has been short-lived. First of all, there is enough supply of low-denominated coins (25-, 10-, 5- and 1-sentimo). As of July 31, 2007, BSP had issued a total of 7.7 billion pieces of these coins; this translates to 87 pieces of (low-denominated) coins per capita, certainly one of the highest distribution rates in Asia. Thus, supply is not the issue. Coin scarcity is due mainly to improper usage—which means coins, with their extended useful life, are often left unattended in people's bags, drawers, jars and even on the streets—keeping such coins out of circulation. This is a challenge to everyone.

Second, the BSP launched the Coin Re-Circulation Campaign (tri-media) to create awareness of the significance of coins. BSP lectures on this issue continue to be conducted all over the country. In fact, we have already covered several sectors, including banking and business establishments, local government units and market vendors. In 2006 and early 2007, schools were the BSP's partners in this advocacy. This year, transport operators are our main target.

Bolido may not also be aware that the BSP programs to re-circulate coins have not stopped. After the success of Tulong Barya Para sa Eskwela, the BSP launched Tulong Barya Para sa Gawad Kalinga and it is about to launch Tulong Barya Para sa Eskwela Part II. The collected coins from the programs have been exchanged with various retailers/stores and are already circulating in the country. At the same time, proceeds are used to benefit public schools in the form of computers, books and chairs; and the needy for their shelter needs.

It is therefore possible that Bolido's experience is an isolated case. We assure her and the general public that the BSP will continue to seek and look into field reports and take the necessary measures.

—MA. AURORA L. CRUZ,
managing director,
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Politics nothing but vanity of vanities

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA IS pushing an "all-encompassing" amnesty for all the enemies of the state, the INQUIRER recently reported.

Also just recently, we came across a story with the headline "Politics lures sociopaths, say experts." The story also reported that a group of psychiatrists said that "candidates running for political office should undergo psychiatric clearance." (INQUIRER, 8/6/07) We had never thought before that politicians could be susceptible to some kind of mental dysfunction.

Like King Solomon, the wisest of them all, De Venecia the veteran legislator and negotiator has probably reached a point in his career to philosophize that politics, after all, is vanity of vanities. He has acquired that humility to forgive and forget.

—P. JOCSON ROSAURO,
Misamis University,
Ozamiz City

Pass the cheaper meds bill, now

KUDOS TO BELINDA OLIVARES-Cunanan for supporting, in her column, the proposed law on cheaper drugs. (INQUIRER, 8/28/2007)

Sadly, because millions of Filipinos are "food poor," we have become a nation that has low resistance, low immunity and high vulnerability to disease. While we are working out the issues on food security, it would, indeed, significantly ease the hardship of our countrymen if they had access to cheaper drugs when they get sick. It should be noted that the cost of medicines in the Philippines can go as high as seven times more than that in other countries.

Our legislators could perhaps also look into the following:

1. Inclusion in the proposed law of a provision that will exempt medicines from the 12-percent EVAT.

2. Passage of a Cheaper Medical Treatment Act that will decrease the cost of hospitalization.

3. Establishment of a program that will send pre-med graduates to medical schools for free, subject to a contract that binds them to render, upon graduation, free medical service equivalent to the cost of their scholarships.

We take this opportunity to appeal to our honorable senators and congressmen to pass the Cheaper Medicines Bill into law without further delay. As David Glasgow Farragut once said: "Damn the torpedoes, full speed ahead!"

—MARITA WASAN,
executive director,
Pro-Life Philippines Foundation Inc.,
Good Shepherd Convent Compound,
1043 Aurora Blvd., Quezon City

Human need and campus violence

THE DEATH OF ANOTHER UP student who wanted to join a fraternity is a reminder that all people need the warmth of other people's friendship.

How else can we explain the willingness of a seemingly intelligent young man to subject himself to agonizing, potentially lethal, physical torture just to belong to a clique he can call his own?

It is sad and pathetic, but we are, as a species, profoundly social. Our gift for interaction ensures our survival, but it is also our weakness; for this appetite for human connections also often leads to our personal destruction.

Aristotle wrote that a man who doesn't need the companionship of other people, who doesn't feel the need to join the *polis* (city-state in Ancient Greek), is either a god or a beast. Yet, irony of ironies, the ideal good life hinted at by Aristotle in the Nicomachean Ethics is one that is meditative, hardly a life to be pursued in a social group.

How does one therefore join other people in various human pursuits and still retain the private space to live a meditative life? If you actively pursue human friendship and fraternity, you, surely at one point, are bound to be disappointed, even brutally hurt and disillusioned. Friends betray each other, lovers part for newfound love, apprentices trump their previous masters, UP pledges get beaten to death by their future sworn brothers.

Really, what is the value of a human relationship attained thus? It must be better for a hungry wolf to scour the world for food by its lonesome.

—RONNEL LIM,
5-B Aguinaldo St.,
Project 4, Quezon City

GSIS' reply: COA gave us clean audit

PERMIT US TO CLARIFY MATTers Solita Monsod wrote about in her Sept. 8 column on the Government Service Insurance System.

The so-called bugging device is an absolute lie. There is no reason for the GSIS to use such equipment because, even if we do, evidence obtained from this would not hold water.

We will no longer ask who relayed this because we have good reason to believe that this misinformation came from a disgruntled employee who was among those hurt by the organizational reforms GSIS President and General Manager Winston F. Garcia initiated. For your information, not a few employees were subjected to disciplinary actions for various offenses, based on evidence that have more weight than a bug.

Mr. Garcia was also speaking the truth when he said it was optional for pensioners to upgrade to the eCard Plus if they already have the old eCard. In fact, those using the old eCard continue to receive their uninterrupted monthly benefits to this day. However, whenever they go to the GSIS for their yearly renewal of active status, the GSIS gives them the option to upgrade to the eCard, for free, so their succeeding renewals would require them only to go to any of the hundreds of G-W@PS kiosks, instead of traveling to their servicing GSIS offices.

We also find no basis for the allegation of the Special Audit Team about the cash advances for discretionary expenses. The truth is, all these advances have been liquidated by the GSIS and accounted for by the Commission on Audit. In fact, in the past several years, GSIS has received a clean audit by the COA—proof that the GSIS adheres to the strictest rules on expenditures mandated by law.

We hope that these unsubstantiated allegations do not misdirect us from the truth about the GSIS. We're talking about the truth that had the GSIS opted not to pursue reforms to save the Fund from total depletion, there would not be a GSIS to talk about today. Had the GSIS not achieved an actuarial life of 46 years and assets of P411 billion, all that we will be tackling today is how the taxpayers would be forced to pay for the pension and other benefits of government employees.

—ELLA E. VALENCERINA,
vice president,
Public Affairs Office,
Government Service Insurance System,
Financial Center, Pasig City

Pension for veteran's widow overdue

A YEAR AGO, MY 87-YEAR-OLD uncle Honorato Onrubia passed away. He was a veteran and, at the time of his death, was receiving a pension.

Unfortunately his widow, Gloria F. Onrubia, has to this day not received the pension due her. She has been constantly following this up, to no avail. All pertinent documents were submitted long ago (birth certificate, marriage certificate, death certificate, guerrilla papers).

Her follow-up calls to the Philippine Veterans Affairs Office were taken by a certain Joan (Tel. No. 912-4869/912-1895) who referred her to the Records Section, where a certain Myrna (Tel. No. 912-4767) got her call and referred her back to Joan.

The pension has accumulated and is now at least P100,000. My aunt is 87 years old and she needs this money for her sustenance and medication. She is wondering what's holding up her pension and whether she will ever receive it.

What else can we do so she can collect her pension?

—NANA F. LORENZANA,
Parañaque City

BFP's complicated relationship with volunteer firemen

THIS REFERS TO RAMON Tulfo's column titled "Lacson, Pimentel, Erap can't set foot in US." (INQUIRER, 8/16/07)

In that column, he also said that the Bureau of Fire Protection (BFP) "banned volunteer firefighters from helping in putting out fires, limiting their job to just passing water to professional firemen." That statement is unfair.

The BFP is the only agency mandated by law (RA 6975) to suppress destructive fires, investigate their causes, and file charges against those responsible for committing arson. In view of this mandate, the BFP recognizes, even encourages, any group to be its partner in putting out fires; hence, it could not have banned, as Tulfo alleged, volunteer fire brigades from helping the BFP.

As a policy, the BFP would like the volunteers to cooperate and coordinate with the BFP fire ground commanders during firefighting operations—for greater efficiency and effectiveness. Most often, because of their eagerness to help the BFP, fire volunteers disregard established operational guidelines and protocols, thus hampering fire-fighting operations. In the end, the BFP is blamed for operational failures.

As the government's fire-fighting agency, the BFP should be the one directing fire-fighting operations, not the volunteer groups.

But sometimes, the volunteers issue statements to the media on what happened at fire scenes and the conduct of fire investigations. Worse, they do not follow orders from the BFP firefighters, thinking they are "volunteers," they own their fire trucks, and they are doing the job for free. On the issue of the BFP's late response (15 to 30 minutes after, according to Tulfo) to fire incidents, the allegation is quite exaggerated, though the problem is common to the BFP. We have been telling communities that once a fire in their neighborhood starts, the best thing to do is to call the BFP's hotline immediately. However, from past experience, by the time our fire stations received the alarms, the fires were already big.

The sad part is, even with below-par fire-fighting and protective gear, the BFP firefighters bravely do their jobs inside or near burning buildings. The volunteers usually get the credit as they are positioned outside precisely because they are only support groups.

The volunteers wear almost the same fire suit as that of the BFP firefighters; sometimes, we really cannot distinguish between the two. And usually, when someone in a fire suit fools around (e.g., loot burning houses), the BFP gets the blame.

The BFP is not a perfect organization, just like other agencies that need to cleanse their own ranks. But, of course, with the help of witnesses who can support their claim, we will not hesitate to go after errant BFP personnel. But in fairness to the BFD's "unsung heroes," they are doing their jobs to the best of their ability and resources, unmindful of credit, and even without enough protective gear.

—CHIEF INSP. RENATO BADONG MARCIAL,
chief, PIO and spokesperson,
Bureau of Fire Protection

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Cops link arrests to 9/11 terror plot

POLICE ARE LINKING THE ARREST OF THREE TERror suspects to a new plot to launch attacks in Metro Manila and Palawan in time for the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States.

MEMBERS of the Army's engineering brigade prepare for deployment to Basilan to work for a separate phase of the offensive against terrorism. The soldiers were to build roads, school buildings and other infrastructure to win hearts and minds. REM ZAMORA

Police officials, however, said the plot had been thwarted as a result of the arrests.

Senior Supt. Dennis Peña, Palawan provincial police chief, said the plot was to be timed for the Sept. 11 terror attacks in the United States, that would be remembered today.

High alert

Authorities Monday heightened the security alert status in Puerto Princesa City following the arrest of two more suspected Abu Sayyaf members Sunday morning and a raid on the house of a suspected supporter of the terrorist group that yielded bomb-making devices.

Tight security were enforced in public offices, including City Hall, the Capitol, public market and major department stores.

Wanted men

The Western Command (WesCom) announced the capture of Abu Daizer, alias Daizer Yusof and Jemar Alfa, alias Abu Jaafar/Jemaar during a joint operation by police and military forces Sunday morning in Barangay Pulot Center, Española town, 160 kilometers south of Puerto Princesa.

The two were subject of an arrest warrant issued by a Regional Trial Court judge in Basilan, according to WesCom spokesperson Capt. Ronald Casanova.

The arrest of the two brought to six the total number of suspected Abu Sayyaf Group (ASG) members caught in Palawan since Thursday when elements of the WesCom conducted an intensive manhunt following an intelligence tip off.

Link

Casanova said those captured had implicated a Muslim resident of Princesa City, identified as Prof. Zainodin Gumubat alias Abu Hani.

Reportedly a former official of Al Farouk, a Muslim institute based in Puerto Princesa City, Hani is currently under tactical interrogation.

Confiscated following a raid on Hani's residence were several pieces of blasting caps, explosive chemicals and electrical wirings, according to military sources.

WesCom officials, however, declined to provide more details on Hani's arrest, saying they are still conducting follow up intelligence operations.

Palawan target

Asked if there were pieces of evidence that ASG members were planning to conduct terror activities in Palawan, Casanova said they are not ruling out the possibility.

Earlier arrested were Moadz Jala, alias Abu Moadz; Abdulla Abduraham, alias Abdullah; Omar Ibnu Jakarain alias Abu Mogera; and Najer Daud, alias Ben Saif Daud.

Police in General Santos City also arrested a suspect and found materials for improvised explosive devices in his possession.

A companion of the arrested suspect was being hunted.

Military operations against terror suspects have been protested by some groups that claimed the antiterror campaign was leading to human rights abuses.

In Pigkawayan, North Cotabato, some residents denounced what they called harassment committed by government soldiers who barged into houses without search warrants since last week.

"The soldiers were armed pretending to be conducting census of households to make it appear that they have been authorized by the National Statistics Office (NSO)," said housewife Myrna Pio of Barangay Midpapan Dos.

"I don't know if they had the permission of the barangay captain," said Pio, who expressed alarm over the house-to-house search of suspected New People's Army (NPA) supporters.

The presence of Army combatants belonging to the 40th Infantry Battalion has alarmed the adult segment of the community and terrified schoolchildren, forcing some of them to skip classes.

Alarm in school

Pio, who became a Bayan Muna supporter in the 2004 presidential elections, has denied military allegations that her family has been accommodating and providing shelter and other assistance to armed communists.

Pio said other houses were also raided.

"We are not against the presence of soldiers per se if they were there as peacekeepers. We are against abusive troops," she said.

Lt. Col. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, explained that elements of the 40th IB in the two Midpapan villages had been deployed "to protect the lives and properties of residents" against armed intruders. *Redempto Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon with a report from Geraldford P. Ticke (contributor) and Charlie Señase, Inquirer Mindanao*

Pagbati sa mga Bagong Bulakenyong pararangalan sa
Gawad Galing Barangay 2007

NATATANGING BARANGAY
San Francisco, Bulakan
Minuyan, Norzagaray
Kayplan, San Jose del Monte City
Caingin, Meycauayan City
Pulong Yantok, Angat

NATATANGING PUNONG-BARANGAY
Kgg. Jerry M. Cenal
Minuyan, Norzagaray

NATATANGING KAGAWAD
Kgg. Marcelino P. Esguerra Jr.
Bigte, Norzagaray

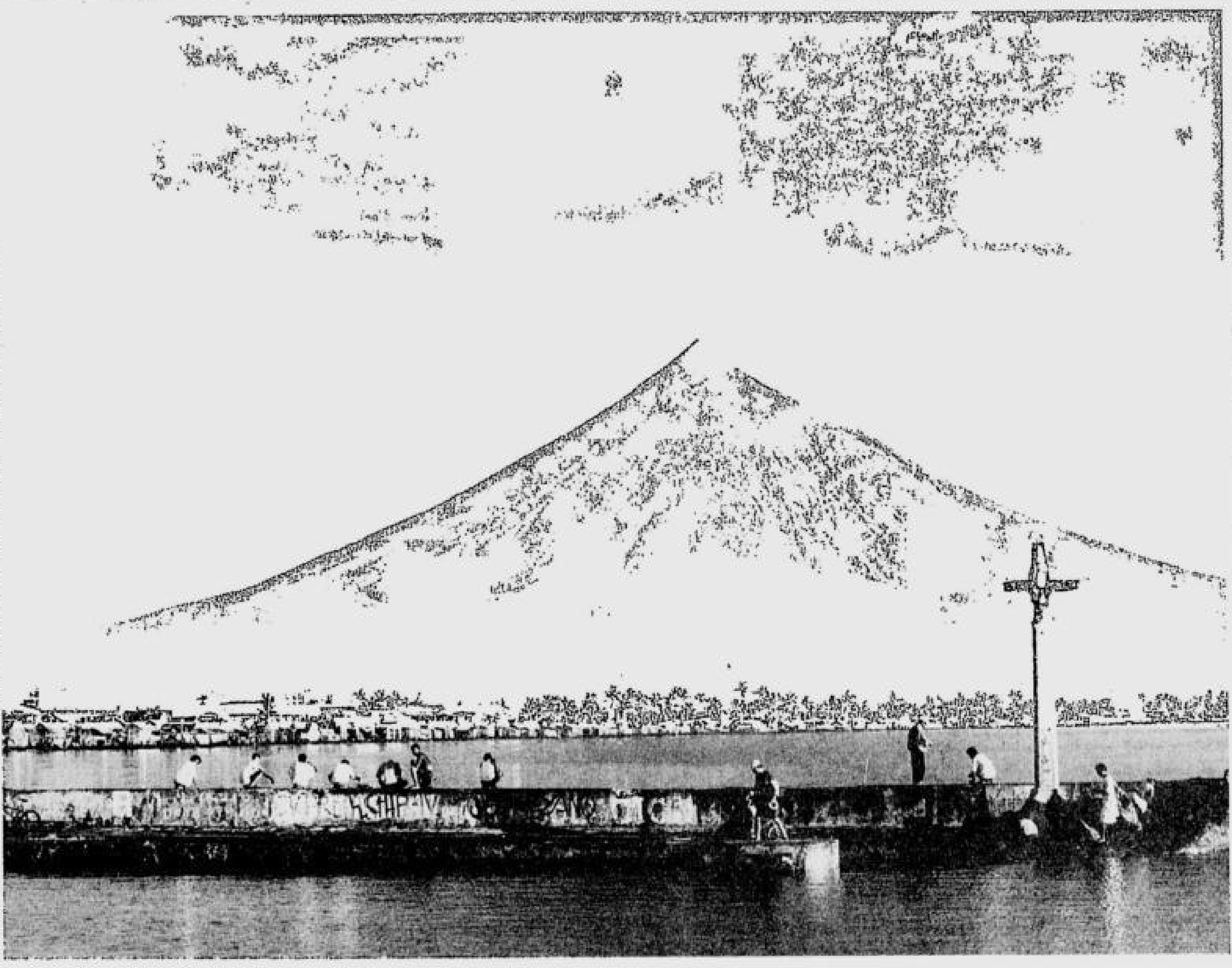
NATATANGING KALIHIM
G. Marcelino T. Santos
San Francisco, Bulakan

"LINGGO NG BULACAN"
ARAW NG MGA BARANGAY
Setyembre 11, 2007

Taas Noo, BAGONG BULAKENYO

Pagbati mula sa Pamahalaang Panlalawigan ng Bulacan sa pangunguna ni Gob. Joselito R. Mendoza,
Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Bulacan at Liga ng mga Barangay sa Bulacan

BULACAN AWARDS PROGRAM FOR BARANGAY INNOVATION AND EXCELLENCE



PRETTY DAY
ANGIE DE SILVA/CONTRIBUTOR
Mayon Volcano displays its perfect cone on a clear day in Legazpi City, Albay, briefly erasing the memory of volcanic rocks, mud and debris that it unleashed on dozens of towns and villages during a storm last year.

MILF upbeat over GMA stand on peace talks

COTABATO CITY—THE MORO Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) on Sunday welcomed President Macapagal-Arroyo's commitment to Malaysian Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi to work for a peace agreement in Mindanao.

The MILF was reacting to the meeting between Ms Arroyo and Badawi in Sydney, during which the Malaysian leader urged the Philippine leader to resume talking peace with the rebel group.

"We are grateful for (Malaysian Prime Minister) Badawi who took extra steps to personally bring to the President's attention the need to resume peace talks," Mohaqher Iqbal, MILF chief negotiator, told the INQUIRER by phone.

Mediator

"It's a very welcome development," Ghadzali Jaafar, MILF political affairs chief, said in a separate interview.

Earlier, non-government organizations and representatives of countries with peace and development projects in Mindanao had urged Malacañang and the MILF to return to the negotiating table.

Since 2003, Malaysia has been playing third-party mediator in the 10-year-old peace talks between the government and the MILF.

Asked if the MILF was ready should the President order the government panel to resume the talks, Iqbal said: "We have been ready since last year."

The talks were stalled in September last year on disagreements over the territorial size of the proposed Bangsamoro Juridical Entity.

They were supposed to resume on Aug. 22 in Kuala Lumpur, but the government panel backed off due to lack of a clear directive.

Instead, both panels met informally to extend the term of the Malaysian-led multinational monitoring team.

Informal meeting

While the MILF welcomed the announcement of Ms Arroyo, Iqbal said the MILF panel would wait for the Malaysian representative "to officially inform us."

"It is always the mediator that facilitates, so we will wait for that and don't rely too much on media announcement about the peace talks," he said.

Once a date is set, the MILF panel goes to Kuala Lumpur, he said.

Iqbal said the MILF was expected to meet anytime to discuss whether to agree on resuming the talks during the month of Ramadan or have it delayed a month later.

The Ramadan fasting is expected to start on Sept. 13 or 14 depending on the visibility of the moon.

Ancestral domain

While the MILF expressed preparedness to sit down and listen to the government's proposal, Iqbal said he was worried over the government's new position on ancestral domain.

Chief government negotiator Rodolfo Garcia had been quoted earlier as saying that Manila was offering a new formula to resolve the issue. He said he would present the formula once the talks were resumed.

Iqbal said he was surprised that the government was again changing its stance on the territorial issue. He said he was afraid that the government might change what had been agreed upon.

"Our panel wanted to find out what is this new formula," he said.

Jaafar said the early resumption of the talks would be good for everyone. *Edwin O. Fernandez, Inquirer Mindanao*

ROUNDUP

9 dead as truck falls into ravine

CAUAYAN CITY—Nine people died while nine others were hurt on Saturday when their truck fell into a 150-meter deep ravine in the City of Tabuk in Kalinga, a police report said.

Supt. Florante Camuyot, acting Kalinga police director, said the driver of the Isuzu Elf truck, identified as Paolo Cawaren, lost control of the vehicle when its brakes failed while negotiating a mountain road in Barangay Calaccad.

The truck was on its way to Tabuk City when the accident happened at about 4:30 p.m.

The report identified the fatalities as Cawaren, truck owner Lakas Miranda, Betty Gosimat and her son Clinton, Pecial Bilowan, James Pablo Gallego, Marcial Domingo, Julian Ewan and Junior Banya-ao, most of them residents of Tanudan, Kalinga.

The injured passengers were taken to the Kalinga Provincial Hospital in Tabuk.

Insp. Johnson Ayagen, Kalinga police spokesperson, said one of the victims, Bryan Aguasi, 7, is in critical condition due to head injuries.
Villamor Visaya Jr., Inquirer Northern Luzon

Cops cordon off WWII arms cache

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—Police have cordoned off an area just outside the city following the discovery of a cache of World War II ordnance Sept. 3.

City police chief Supt. David Martinez said found so far were 27 live fragmentation hand grenades, several rounds of 60 mm mortar and thousands of rounds of high caliber rifle bullets.

Martinez said that the ordnance were buried in a small pit by the roadside in Purok Maligaya, Barangay Irawan this city, and was discovered by workers of the City Water District while they were digging a canal.

"These may have been left by the American-led allied troops during the war," Martinez said. *Redempto D. Anda, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

1 dead as jeep falls from bridge

CAMP VICENTE LIM, Laguna—A man died while four others were severely injured as the jeep they were riding in fell from a bridge and burst into flames in Taysan, Batangas Sept. 8, police said.

Police identified the lone fatality as driver Filomino Maranan, 31, a resident of Barangay Nato, Rosario, Batangas.

Injured were passengers Rolando Roallos, Gil Maniebo, Froilan Caguimbal and Michael Velasco. *Marlon Ramos, Inquirer Southern Luzon*

Ex-vice governor dies

ROXAS CITY—Former Capiz vice governor Milagros Asis Balgos died on Sept. 6 due to cardiac arrest. She was 64.

Balgos died at the Saint Anthony College Hospital at 8:30 a.m., hospital records showed.

Balgos served as vice governor of Capiz from 1992 to 1995.
Felipe Celino, Inquirer Visayas

Army intel officer shot dead

COTABATO CITY—Unidentified armed men gunned down an intelligence officer of the Army's 6th Infantry Battalion and wounded another person in Pikit, North Cotabato Sept. 3, police said.

Senior Insp. Elias Dandan, Pikit police chief, said TSgt. Danilo Mendoza was inside a machine shop when the assailants arrived and immediately opened fire.

Mendoza died of multiple bullet wounds.
Charlie C. Señase, Inquirer Mindanao

Korean arrested for rape

DIGOS CITY—A Korean businessman based in Davao City was arrested here Sept. 3 after he was accused of raping the 12-year-old adopted daughter of her live in partner, police authorities announced on Wednesday.

PO2 Benjie Gemina, officer on case, said Bek Dong El went to his girlfriend's house on Saturday and while his girlfriend was attending to relatives, took the child to a room and molested her.

Bek gave P50 to the child after the rape, Gemina said. *Orlando Dinoy, Inquirer Mindanao*

School buildings razed

LINAMON, Lanao del Norte—Three school buildings in Kauswagan, Lanao del Norte were razed by suspected cattle-rustlers, authorities said.

Senior Fire Officer Pedro Sumagang, Bacolod town fire chief, said the suspects burned the buildings of the Kawit Oriental elementary school Sept. 5.

The suspects poured gasoline on the buildings and set them on fire.

Herbert Ledres, Kawit Oriental village chief, said before the fire broke out, three loud explosions were heard at the school.

Edeslita Begornia, school principal, said among the razed buildings was the Gabaldon Building, which the US Army built in 1946.

Police said the cattle rustlers burned the buildings to cover their tracks. *Richel Umel, Inquirer Mindanao*

Cops having tough time enforcing HSA, says exec

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr.
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—LAW ENFORCERS have difficulty in implementing the Human Security Act (HSA) because of the stringent requirements imposed by the law, according to the spokesman of the government's Anti-Terrorism Task Force (ATTF).

Defense Undersecretary Ricardo Blancaflor said no antiterrorism cases had been filed nearly two months after the HSA (Republic Act No. 9372) because policemen and prosecutors had to show proof linking a crime to terrorism based on three elements.

A crime is considered a terrorist act if it was among the 12 enumerated in the provisions of the law, which include murder, rebellion or insurrection, arson, and coup d'etat.

It should also "sow widespread fear and panic among the populace" and be part of attempts to "coerce government to give in to an unlawful demand."

Speaking during a symposium on HSA, Blancaflor said all three elements must be present in filing a case of HSA violation.

Blancaflor said the law was difficult to implement because it had four provisions against terrorists and 22 against law enforcers," referring to the safeguards against abuses and human rights violations.

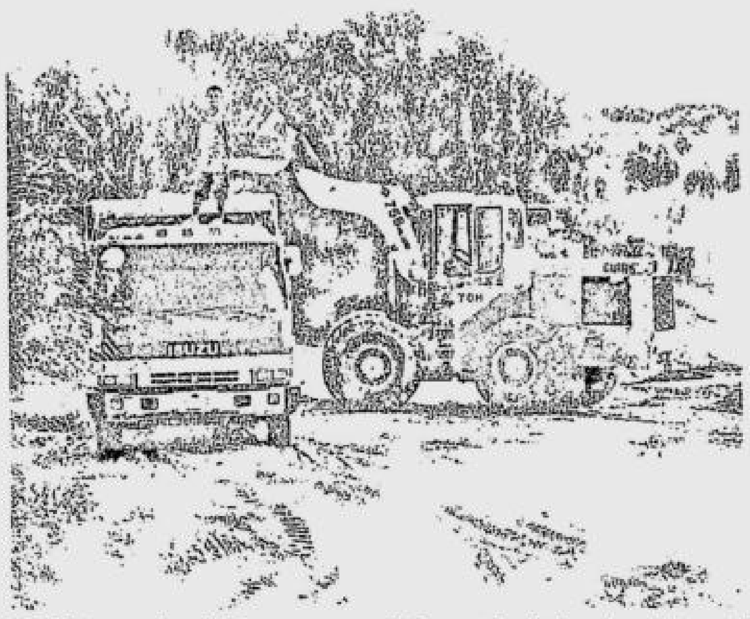
Pampanga moves ₱100M to another bank

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Gov. Eddie Panlilio has announced the transfer of P100 million from the provincial government's P300-million deposit in two accounts with the Philippine National Bank to the capitol's existing account with the Land Bank of the Philippines.

In a statement, Panlilio said the transfer of the public funds and the change of the provincial government's depository bank was in compliance with a Department of Finance Order No. 27 issued in 2005.

The order calls on "all provincial, city and municipal treasurers, commissioners of Bureau of Internal Revenue and Bureau of Customs, heads of attached agencies of the DoF and heads of all government-owned and controlled corporations to deposit their funds and maintain depository accounts with LBP and Development Bank of the Philippines."

It said this was in accordance with the DoF policy that government funds should be handled by government-owned banking institutions.



SAND quarrying in Pampanga, an industry that brings in millions of pesos to the province's coffers. TONETTE OREJAS/INQUIRER CENTRAL LUZON

The transfer of P100 million on Friday increased the provincial government's deposits with the LBP to P200 million, provincial administrator Vivian Dabu said.

The remaining P200 million with the PNB's San Fernando and Sto. Tomas branches would be transferred to the LBP in succeeding tranches, she said.

The PNB San Fernando branch has kept the account to which the provincial government deposits the collections from quarry taxes, the shares of which are given to seven sand-rich towns on a monthly basis, it was learned.

Collections since July 2 have been nearing the P50-million mark as of Monday.

Dabu said the capitol's account with the DBP held more than P10 million.

Panlilio said the concurrence of the provincial board was "not required in the transaction since it entailed the transfer of money to an existing account." The board's approval is needed when the capitol opens new accounts, he said.

Vice Gov. Joseller Guiao said "financial transactions should have the concurrence of the [Sangguniang Panlalawigan]." He said he was "not aware" of the DoF order.

PNB's move

Panlilio ordered the fund transfer after the PNB, despite a two-month extended deadline, had not submitted the documentary requirements on why the capitol should continue banking with it.

He clarified that he did not order the fund transfer to do away with the PNB's Aug. 30 decision not to honor checks countersigned by Dabu following the provincial board's nonconfirmation of her appointment. *Tonette Orejas, Inquirer Central Luzon*

SC to allow judges to carry firearms

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—THE SUPREME Court will allow judges and court personnel facing threats to carry firearms for protection, Chief Justice Reynato S. Puno said.

"There will be rules that will be promulgated by the (Supreme Court) administrator to regulate the carrying of these firearms," said Puno, who was in this city Friday as guest of the Free Masons and to speak at a judges' convention.

He also talked with the members of the judiciary and court personnel.

The Sheriffs Confederation of the Philippines (Scophil) earlier urged the Supreme Court to issue them firearms following the killing of court sheriff Johnny Tugado on July 12.

Tugado, a court sheriff of the Municipal Trial Court in Cities Branch 3, was shot in the chest and head as he was about to enter his house in Oton, Iloilo.

However, Puno clarified that "not everybody will be given the privilege of carrying firearms outside their residences."

He said court personnel would be allowed to carry firearms but they would have to be screened first.

"There will be justifications. There will be a study of their character and temperament," Puno said, stressing on his concern that the policy of allowing court personnel to carry guns might be abused.

Puno urged legislators to appropriate funds for the judiciary for the purchase of firearms for its members, "whose lives are under threat."

Puno said that the Supreme Court would facilitate the renewal of permits of judges "who want to carry firearms outside their residences," particularly those members of the judiciary with "threats to their lives."

He said the National Bureau of Investigation had given the Supreme Court regular reports on the investigation of Tugado's killing.

Roads, infra tied to plan vs poverty

By Vicente S. Labro
Inquirer Visayas

TACLOBAN CITY—THE GOVERNMENT would pour billions of pesos into infrastructure projects this year to support anti-poverty programs, the top official of the National Nutrition Council said.

Maria Bernardita T. Flores, NNC executive director, said the government would embark on an intensive food production effort that would include the rehabilitation or construction of farm-to-market roads and irrigation systems.

Spending binge

President Macapagal-Arroyo has so far committed P500 million every month for irrigation and also another P500 million for farm-to-market roads, she said.

Late last week, local action plans to reduce hunger for 2008-10 were prepared here by representatives of provinces with high hunger incidence rates. The NNC and the National Anti-Poverty Commission facilitated the workshops.

Flores said Ms Arroyo was committed to implement the rural roads and irrigation projects because these were included in the "pump-priming strategy to increase the production of our farms."

Publicity funds

The NNC also received P100 million in January to finance its campaign to promote good nutrition through an intensified multimedia campaign.

Among the media efforts that the NNC had initiated were for the promotion of breast feeding, appropriate complementary feeding and increased consumption of vegetables.

Flores said the NNC was waiting for the release by the Department of Budget and Management of an additional P116 million to fund promotion of good nutrition in Priority One provinces and Metro Manila.

More money

For next year, she said the NNC budget proposal was P400 million for Priority Two provinces, while in 2009, nearly P500 million would be needed for Priority Three provinces.

The NNC has identified 55 provinces in the country as "accelerated hunger-mitigation program" areas, including all the six provinces in Eastern Visayas.

Flores identified the Priority One provinces as Agusan del Sur, Camarines Norte, Lanao del Norte, Maguindanao, Masbate, Mountain Province, Sarangani, Surigao del Norte, Zamboanga del Norte and Zamboanga Sibugay, as well as Metro Manila.

Visayas traders seek CARP review

By Carla P. Gomez
Inquirer Visayas

BACOLOD CITY—DELEGATES TO THE Visayas Area Business Conference (VABC) called for a review of the Comprehensive Agrarian Reform Program (CARP) and its implementation before any legislative action was made on the matter.

They passed a resolution seeking a review to ensure that reformed agrarian reform initiatives were responsive to the realities of globalization.

About 200 delegates attended the VABC, which was hosted by the Metro Bacolod Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

The Department of Agrarian Reform wants to extend the CARP for 10 years.

The VABC resolution noted the need to ensure full land use and productivity through the development and promotion of downstream agribusiness while remaining faithful to the ideals of the agrarian reform.

Lack of support

The Philippines has yet to achieve economic empowerment of agrarian reform beneficiaries with the lack of support services, such as financing, irrigation, farm-to-market roads and technology transfer, the resolution noted.

On the other hand, landowners have experienced undervaluation of CARP lands and the protracted payment period of compensation, it added.

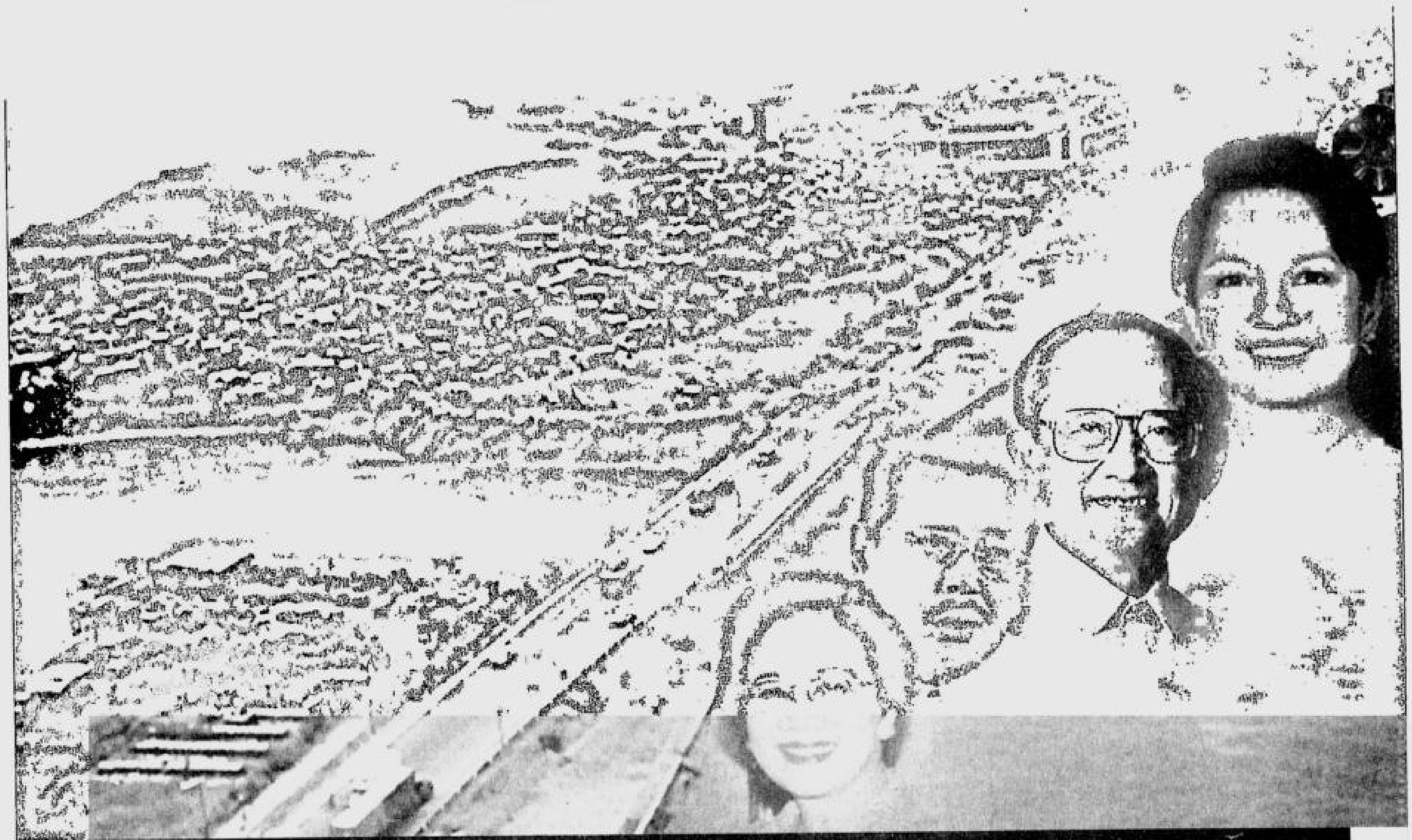
A joint study conducted by the DAR and the German Technical Cooperation found that more than P100 billion had already been spent on the CARP but the actual amount collected from amortization was only P2.5 billion, the resolution said.

Compensation

It recommended the direct participation and supervision by local government units in the agrarian reform implementation, including the proper identification and selection of beneficiaries, collection of taxes, and amortization.

It sought speedier compensation to land owners and the granting of incentives to agricultural and agribusiness investors.

'Salamat sa Desisyon ng Korte Suprema 13-0'



Smokey Mountain then

Four Philippine Presidents have put in their mark on the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP).

All poured in essential support needed during their term to provide decent homes to a community of garbage dumpsite scavengers and renew the environment in the Tondo foreshore land, known as the Smokey Mountain.

With the Smokey Mountain etched fresh in the world's mind as symbol of urban decay, former President Cory Aquino initiated in 1988 a comprehensive waste management plan for Metro Manila, with the SMRDP as one of the resultant projects.

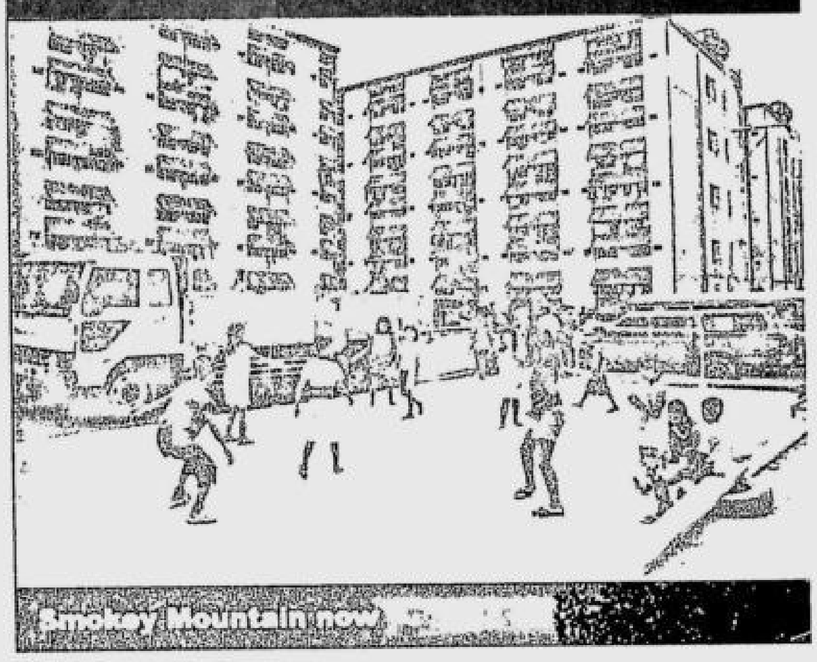
Former President Fidel V. Ramos firmed up the joint venture agreement covering the project and set forth the 79-hectare reclamation of foreshore land as its enabling component.

With work in progress, former President Joseph Estrada undertook the SMRDP as one of his administration's flagship programs for the poor and for environment management.

Then, in 2003, H. E. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo turned over to 2,520 SMRDP beneficiary-families their housing units in 21 medium-rise residential buildings.

On Aug 15, 2007, the Supreme Court declared the legality of the Smokey Mountain Reclamation and Development Project (SMRDP). Thirteen High Court justices voted on its validity while two other justices inhibited themselves from voting.

Smokey Mountain rule reopens fresh prospects for new wealth and relieving miseries of the poor *--FVR*



Smokey Mountain now

In a column by former President Ramos, dated Aug. 26, 2007 and which appeared in the Manila Bulletin, he hails the High Court decision and declares:

"Fresh prospects to create new wealth – on the part of both Government and the private sector -- have just been reopened which can attract a big wave of investments and generate hundreds of thousands of jobs for indigent Filipinos."

He sees the decision as a judicial move that spurs the cleaning up of more "Smokey Mountains" in the Philippines. Calling for more legislation on reclamation, he also sees renewed vigor in the use of reclamation for the creation of new wealth benefiting foreshore communities.

Salamat sa
Korte Suprema!

PAID ADVERTISEMENT

Senators set to question MC 108 in SC

By Dona Pazzibugan

ANOTHER LEGAL CONFRONTATION LOOMS BETWEEN Malacañang and the Senate over the Arroyo administration's perceived attempt to stop Congress from calling executive branch officials to legislative hearings.

Senators belonging to the minority yesterday considered whether to go to the Supreme Court to question President Macapagal-Arroyo's Memorandum Circular 108, which a Cabinet member invoked to avoid having to appear at a Senate hearing last week.

Sen. Rodolfo Biazon expressed exasperation at executive officials who invoked MC 108 which the President issued on July 27.

On Friday, Defense Secretary Gilbert Teodoro, Armed Forces Chief of Staff Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr. and other top military officials used MC 108 to avoid having to attend a joint hearing by the Senate committees on defense and on constitutional amendments on a proposed law setting a fixed three-year term for the military chief of staff.

Teodoro instead wrote Biazon asking for a 15-day period to consider the summons, and said he would forward Biazon's letter to the Office of the President "to consider whether the subject matter of the committee's public hearing is in aid of legislation and/or falls within the scope of executive privilege."

"What are we to do? How can you conduct hearings if they are not allowed to attend?" Biazon told reporters after emerging from the minority caucus.

He said the senators in the minority felt that "we have to resolve this issue."

"I am proposing that this be brought up by the whole Senate with the Supreme Court," Biazon said.

The hearing of the defense committee followed that of the "Hello Garci" wiretapping scandal that was jointly conducted by the committees on defense, blue ribbon and constitutional amendments.

Five of the six invited resource persons snubbed the "Hello Garci" hearing, including a retired military chief of staff and an active military officer. On their behalf, Teodoro invoked Ms Arroyo's Executive Order 464.

The administration had used EO 464 to keep key government officials from appearing before congressional investigations on alleged election cheating in Mindanao.

In May 2006, the Supreme Court struck down EO 464 and upheld the right of Congress to compel executives and military officers to attend congressional inquiries "in aid of legislation."

But the high court also ruled that the President may invoke executive privilege in matters covering confidential or classified information.

Shortly after the Supreme Court struck down EO 464, Malacañang came out with MC 108 detailing the use of executive privilege.

'Bush writing down what GMA had to say? Yeah, right!'

By Norman Bordadora

SORSOGON REP. SALVADOR ESCUDERO told officials of President Macapagal-Arroyo's media team yesterday to stick to the facts when reporting on the Chief Executive's activities, particularly diplomatic missions abroad.

The opposition lawmaker said the Office of the Press Secretary (OPS) was taking Filipinos for fools with such stories as the one about US President George W. Bush supposedly taking notes while speaking with Ms Arroyo on the sidelines of the recent Apec Summit in Sydney.

"*Akala n'yo tanga ang mga Pilipino* (You think Filipinos are fools). Have more respect for us," Escudero said during a budget hearing in the House of Representatives.

Information Secretary Conrado Limcaoco and Press Undersecretary Roberto Rivera headed the OPS panel at yesterday's hearing.

"The President is capable. There is no need for spinmeisters to make her look credible ... Don't take us for a ride," the opposition lawmaker said.

The story of Bush "taking notes as (Ms Arroyo gave) instructions" was based on a Malacañang dispatch from Sydney where the US and Philippine presidents attended the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Summit.

Ms Arroyo and Bush were scheduled to hold formal bilateral talks in Australia but the meeting was cancelled at the last minute by the US side. Media attention was naturally drawn to every conversation Ms Arroyo and Bush had after the meeting was called off.

"I can't comment on that matter, your honor ... It was (Press) Secretary (Ignacio) Bunye who was there," Rivera said when Escudero asked if the story was true and if the OPS had double-checked the information.

Bush's note-taking while Ms Arroyo talking to him was supposedly witnessed by a Malacañang aide.

"Would you believe that the president of the most powerful nation in the world would take notes while listening to the President of our country?" Escudero said.

"There should be credibility," he added.

Escudero nonetheless said he was supporting the OPS bid for a more than P800-million share in the 2008 national budget to upgrade the existing infrastructure of the government television network and radio stations.

Muslims to get ancestral domain certificates—GMA

SYDNEY (VIA PLDT)—PRESIDENT MACApagal-Arroyo plans to award certificates of ancestral domain to Muslim communities even while the peace talks are ongoing between the government and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

In an interview with reporters Saturday on the sidelines of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) Summit, Ms Arroyo said the "pilot implementation" of ancestral domain was part of the government's confidence-building mechanism to encourage the peace talks with the MILF.

"I want to give certificates of ancestral domain to a Muslim community so we can see that it works with them as well," she said.

The President said this was in line with the existing policy of giving ancestral domain certificates to indigenous peoples. (*See related story on Page A16.*)

"We already have a regulatory framework for ancestral domain. I was the one who authored that bill when I was a senator," she said. "I'm not aware of the ancestral domain title given to Muslims as a tribe. [But] it's given to indigenous peoples."

Ms Arroyo said the certificates could be awarded to Muslim communities even before a final peace agreement is signed with the MILF and without any need for a plebiscite. *Juliet Labog-Javellana*

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DID YOU KNOW

A STREET in Sampaloc, Manila has been named after Ferdinand Blumentritt, Dr. Jose Rizal's friend from Prague (now in the Czech Republic) who convinced him to publish the novels "Noli Me Tangere" and "El Filibusterismo." Blumentritt, born on Sept. 10, 1853, was a scholar who conducted studies about the Philippines and assisted members of the Propaganda Movement. *Cyril L. Bonabente, Inquirer Research*

15 face cops' probe of UP stude's death

Fraternity members allegedly involved in initiation rites included in list

By Jeannette I. Andrade

AT LEAST 15 PERSONS ARE BEING INVESTIGATED BY THE QUEZON City police for their possible involvement in the death of suspected hazing victim, Cris Anthony Mendez, a senior public administration student of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

Probers of the Quezon City Police District Criminal Investigation and Detection Unit, however, did not name the suspects to avoid jeopardizing their investigation.

A source, who asked for anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media, told the INQUIRER that among the 15 were fraternity members who participated in the initiation rites which allegedly took place in a house in Barangay Pasong Tamo, Pingkian, Quezon City.

Mendez was believed to have died during the initiation rites which the police said took place from Aug. 25 to 26. An autopsy report said that he had been badly beaten up before his death.

Among those under investigation is the owner of the house where the initiation ceremony was held.

"As soon as we have an air-tight case against these persons, we will be filing the appropriate charges against them," the source said.

He added that the testimonies of four witnesses, two of whom were able to give the names of those who participated in the rites, have helped strengthen their evidence against the suspects.

The QCPD has been coordinating with the UP administration after university officials, who have launched their own probe of the case, offered their help to the police and the National Bureau of Investigation.

"We are getting help from several people. This is vital to ensure that we have an air-tight case against the persons responsible for the victim's death," the source said.

Even Dr. Francisco Cruz, the doctor who took Mendez to the Veterans Memorial Medical Center where he was declared dead on arrival on Aug. 27, surfaced last week to personally give the QCPD-CIDU his sworn statement.

The sworn statement, it was learned, also listed the names of the people who allegedly brought Mendez to his house in Congressional Village from where he rushed the 20-year-old student to the VMMC.

Ex-solon's supporter shot dead by 2 men in Navotas

By Nancy C. Carvajal

UNAWARE THEY WERE PLANNING TO kill her husband, the wife of a community leader even offered refreshments to two men who went to the couple's house in Navotas City yesterday and made her believe that they were there to offer him a job.

Investigator P03 Dante Majadas said that Fernando "Nanding" Ramos , 53, a resident of Kaunlaran Village, North Bay Boulevard South, was shot dead at 9:30 a.m. by the two men in front of his wife and child.

Ramos, according to his wife, was a known supporter of former Malabon-Navotas Rep. Federico "Ricky" Sandoval.

The police said the victim helped in the campaign of Sandoval who ran for mayor of Navotas last May but lost to the incumbent, Mayor Toby Tiangco.

Investigator said the suspects were able to enter the victim's house after they told his wife that Sandoval had sent them to fetch him because he had a job for him.

According to the victim's wife, the two men looked familiar to her.

"She said that she recognized them from the campaign last May so she let them into her house and offered them soft drinks while they waited for her husband who was in the market," Majadas said.

When Ramos entered the house, the two men fired at him, hitting him in the neck and head.

But his wife and their 14-year-old child were not harmed by the suspects, the policeman added.

Based on witnesses' accounts, the suspects ran out of the victim's house and fled on board a motorcycle without a license plate after the incident.

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Acting barangay chair arrested

By Allison W. Lopez

THE ACTING CHAIR of a barangay in Manila was arrested last week for allegedly heading a drug and prostitution syndicate after three of his cohorts were nabbed in an entrapment operation.

Wilfredo de Vera, 43, officer in charge of Barangay 844, Zone 92, in the city's sixth district was collared on Friday after a complainant tagged him as the leader of the group.

Hours before his arrest, three suspected members of the group identified as Robert Garcia, John Lloyd Espinosa and a young girl identified only as "Salve" were nabbed in an entrapment operation conducted by the police at a hotel in Ermita, Manila.

One of the suspects was caught with a sachet of shabu by the Manila City Hall Police-District Special Project Unit.

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Brief hailstorm cools hot afternoon in Quezon City

By TJ Burgonio and Kenneth del Rosario

TINY ICE PARTICLES YESTERDAY rained on a village in Quezon City in what the weather bureau described as a hailstorm.

Residents of Barangay Holy Spirit said dark clouds and strong winds accompanied the hailstorm, sending many of them rushing out of their homes.

"This is associated with intense thunderstorm. It's not highly unusual although it's not a normal happening," Philippine Atmospheric Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration weather branch chief Nathaniel Cruz said in a phone interview.

"It's not dangerous," he added.

Hail is a form of precipitation that consists of balls or irregular lumps of ice that come from severe thunderstorms.

"These are the ice particles that do not dissolve as they go down the atmosphere," Cruz said, adding that these were more dangerous in middle latitude countries like the United States, Canada and Japan because they could take the size of golf balls.

Gary Dupo, a fruit vendor, said the hailstorm happened at around 3 p.m., adding that it lasted for about five minutes.

The pieces of ice were about half-an-inch long and melted quickly upon hitting the ground.

Ferdie, another resident who said he was inside his house when the hailstorm came, told the INQUIRER that he heard tapping sounds on the roof.

When he stepped outside, he saw bits of ice as big as *mongo* seeds hitting the ground.

The air also felt cool, he added.

Cruz said that during hailstorms, people should stay inside their homes or seek shelter to avoid the hazards associated with thunderstorms such as strong winds, lightning and tornado.

"It's not advisable to go out during hailstorms," he added.

Deportation awaits Korean resto owner

By Margaux C. Ortiz

A KOREAN RESTAURANT manager was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Immigration (BI) in Quezon City last week for working without the appropriate work permit and visa.

Immigration Commissioner Marcelino Libanan said Jang Young Ae, also known as Chang Young Ae, was nabbed at the Pusan Garden Restaurant on Commonwealth Avenue last Sept. 7.

Libanan said the Korean woman had been working as manager and operator of the restaurant "in blatant violation of the law that forbids foreigners from engaging in gainful activity without securing a working visa from the BI."

The BI official added that the waiters and staff employed in the restaurant confirmed that Ae was their manager.

"The Korean visitor will be deported not only for working without a permit but also for being an undocumented alien because of her failure to submit her passport and travel documents," Libanan said.

"It is not right for foreigners to compete with Filipinos for jobs and livelihood opportunities in their own country," the official stressed.

Backdoor negotiations in mall raid?

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

THE MANILA REGIONAL trial court judge, who was featured in this column twice for allegedly issuing search warrants on stores indiscriminately, reportedly signed a warrant for a raid at a Makati City mall late last year.

The stores raided were suspected to contain smuggled goods for sale.

The store owners allegedly negotiated with the leader of the raiding team so their goods would not be confiscated.

The team leader demanded P500,000, but the store owners haggled for a smaller amount. The team leader said he would call up his boss.

After a few minutes talking to somebody over his cellular phone, the team leader said he would settle for P300,000.

The talk was that no goods were confiscated that day.

The "boss" that the leader of the raiding team talked to was never known.

But a store owner who read this column Saturday speculated that it could have been the judge the team leader consulted.

That was not a raid. That was robbery.

And it it is true that the Manila judge issued the warrant, he was part of the robbery.

Will the Supreme Court allow judges like him to continue holding office?

* * *

I have it on good authority the judge has a backer at the Supreme Court.

His backer, I am told, is not a justice in the high court.

Still, he holds a position of consequence in the high tribunal.

This judge's backer, my sources said, is rumored to have an affair with the wife of a friend.

That's immorality, plain and simple.

How come the high court disbarred a lawyer-official of a government sports body for having relations with a married woman, but doesn't want to touch one of its own?

What is sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander.

* * *

For exposing an allegedly questionable $329-million contract for the national broadband network project, columnist Jarius Bondoc's talk show at IBC 13, a government-sequestered station, has been cancelled.

Welcome to the club, Jarius!

Expect more acts of harassment to follow from the people adversely affected by your exposé.

And, another thing, my dear friend: Watch your back.

* * *

Just who are the "Little One" and the "Big One" that Sen. Panfilo Lacson alluded to in the $329-million scandal?

Ping Lacson said the Little One and the Big One are suspected of getting a big slice of the kickbacks for the ZTE contract.

The public wants to know who they are.

It is incumbent upon Lacson, if he has the goods on the duo, to uncover their identities either through a privilege speech, which he is using to the hilt against his enemies, or talking about it in other forums.

* * *

Christopher Ricketts, my former instructor in *arnis*, the Filipino art of fighting, is teaching policemen in the US in using the stick as a deadly weapon.

He goes around the US conducting seminars on *arnis*, as well as fighting with the use of a knife, in various police departments.

Ricketts, my *compadre*, is earning lots of money in America where he has settled down with his family.

How ironic that in this country, where *arnis* originated, you can count the number of policemen who know *arnis* with your fingers.

Do you know that many policemen from other countries come to the Philippines just to learn the sport?

METROBRIEFS

Man's body discovered

THE BODY of an unidentified man was found in a warehouse in San Juan City Sunday night and police said the victim could have been killed just a few hours before his body was found. According to a report from the San Juan City police, the body was found by a security guard at about 11 p.m. Sunday in a warehouse at 23-C Corazon de Jesus St. The victim wore a red T-shirt and a pair of denim pants. Police described the 5-foot four-inch tall victim as having a brown complexion and a tattoo on the left side of his chest. Investigators said he had a gaping wound on the temple which could have caused his death. Police said the victim could have been hit by a hard, metallic instrument on the head and that it happened just a few hours before the body was found.

Kristine L. Alave

Water cutoff in QC

SOME areas of Quezon City will have no water for 12 hours, starting at 10 p.m. today, Sept. 11, until 10 a.m. tomorrow. The water service interruption is due to the installation of a 300-mm district meter on Roosevelt Avenue near the corner of Cooper Street in Quezon City. The areas that will have low water pressure to no water are Barangays Mariblo, Paraiso and Damayan. Affected customers are advised to store water good for the duration of the water service interruption. For any queries, please call the Maynilad Water Hotline 1626 or 4362000, or text Maynilad 2898.

Rural bankers meet set

THE NATIONLINK Network will sponsor the 2007 Rural Bankers membership meeting to be held from Sept. 13 to 14 at the Grand Ballroom of the Manila Hotel. Jess de la Cruz, president of Infoserve and founder of Nationlink, said the two-day meet would tackle the Amended Election Code of the Rural Bankers Association of the Philippines, the conference budget and the election of directors, among others. For details, call Ace or Jacky at 5272969 to 80.

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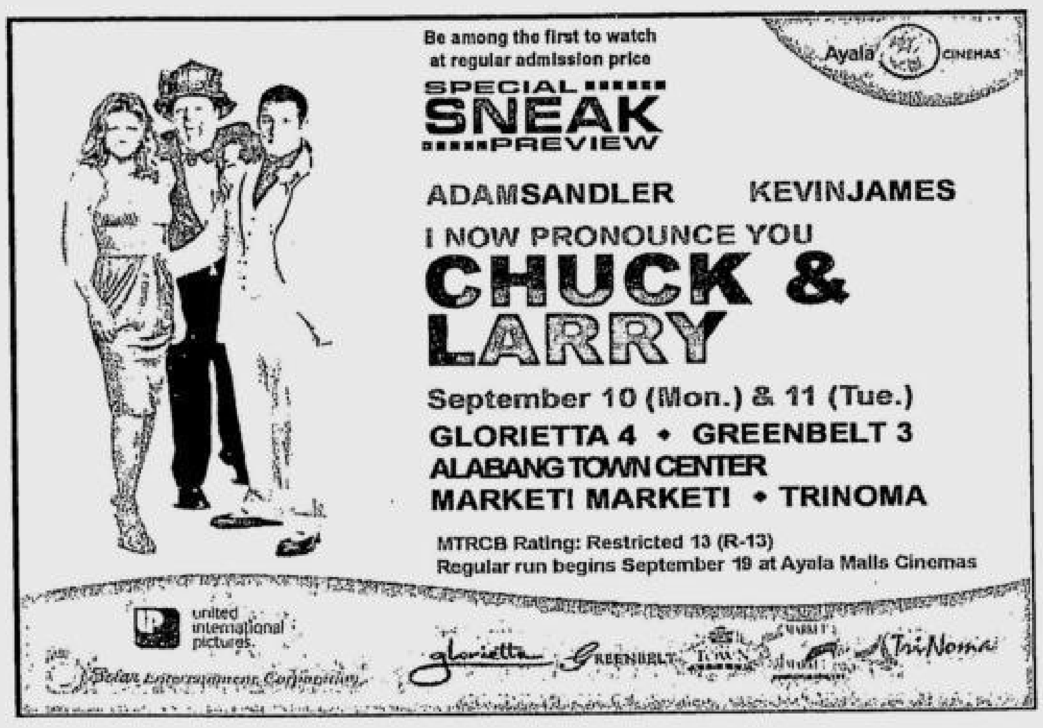
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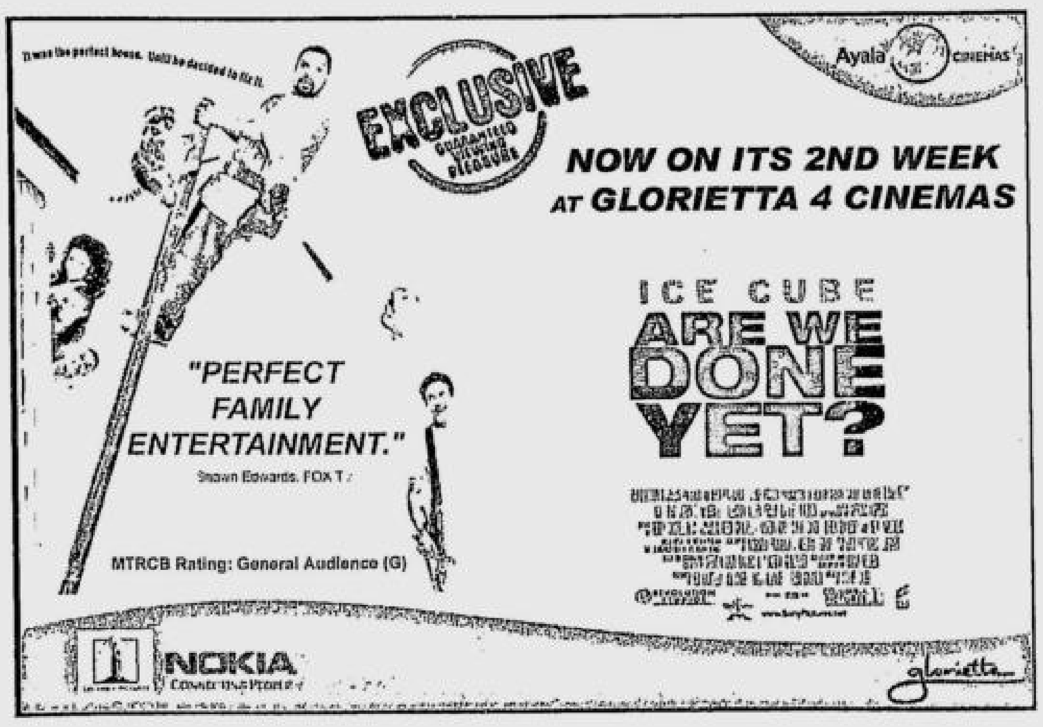
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Pasig gets new equipment to boost anticrime drive

By Kristine L. Alave

PASIG CITY MAYOR ROBERT EUSEBIO yesterday turned over communication equipment and motorcycles to the local police and other law enforcers to enable them to efficiently monitor the city and respond to emergencies quickly.

The city police, led by their chief, Senior Supt. Frank Uyami, received 30 handheld radios, four heavy duty flashlights and video and digital cameras.

The Traffic Management Office, on the other hand, received 20 125cc Suzuki motorcycles while the Batas Ciudad Enforcement Office, which is under the local government, got 30 motorcycles with sidecars and 70 Motorola handheld radios.

Eusebio said the new equipment should help the police and local enforcers' anticriminality drive and reduce street and petty crimes.

"I expect that it would really help our officers to prevent crimes. Definitely, we have to continuously upgrade the equipment of our law enforcers to ensure that they are not caught flat-footed in pursuing suspected criminals," he added.

The city's engineering office and City Rescue and Disaster Coordinating Council also received a truck and a heavy-duty light tower, respectively.

Arraignment of 2 priests accused of libel in Makati court moved to Nov.

By DJ Yap

THE SCHEDULED ARRAIGNMENT yesterday of two Catholic priests charged with libel for accusing a pulp and paper milling company of polluting the air and water in Bislig City, Surigao del Sur, was moved to November.

The Makati court hearing the case postponed the proceeding after Fr. Florio Falcon petitioned the justice department to review the charges against him and his assistant, Fr. Erwin Rommel Torres.

In the petition, Falcon said the statements he made against Picop Resources Inc., which served as basis for the suit, were privileged communication for they arose out of his "civic, moral and religious duty" to report any wrongdoing.

He added that the statements, contained in letters to government officials, including the President, and published newspaper reports, were devoid of malice, one of the requisite elements of libel.

Judge Alberico Umali of the Makati Regional Trial Court Branch 138 reset the arraignment to Nov. 26.

The case stemmed from statements the priests made accusing the PRI of illegal logging operations and committing environment violations in Bislig, which they alleged led to health ailments among the residents.

In a story published in the INQUIRER on Oct. 30, 2006, Falcon, the parish priest of St. Vincent de Paul in Mangangoy, also said he had received death threats, which he claimed "bore the trademarks of a PRI-backed death squad."

With Skyway takeover, workers worried over displacement threat

By Jerome Aning

ABOUT 1,000 WORKERS FROM the government-owned firm PNCC Skyway Corp. (PSC) are worried they could lose their jobs following the scheduled takeover by a private contractor of the Skyway's operations by the end of the year.

Some 200 workers staged a rally in front of the PSC office in Bicutan, Taguig City, yesterday morning, carrying placards and wearing makeshift vests which bore messages criticizing the privatization of the Skyway operations.

PSC employees union president Apollo Ado claimed there was a "distinct possibility" of a toll increase following the new agreement between the Philippine National Construction Corp. and the builder of the Skyway, Citra Metro Manila Tollways Corp. (CMMTC), on the expansion of the Bicutan-Alabang portion.

According to Ado, the CMMTC agreed to undertake the expansion on the condition that the company would operate the Skyway, leading to the dissolution of the PSC.

"This is plain and simple union-busting," said Ado. "The government wants all obstacles to Citra's takeover eliminated so the private consortium can squeeze out the most profit from the Skyway operations."

The PSC union is an affiliate of the Workers' Solidarity Network which belongs to the umbrella group Alliance of Progressive Labor.

The 10-year-old PSC, a subsidiary of the PNCC, operates the Skyway. Any toll rate increase must have the approval of the Toll Regulatory Board. Both the PNCC and TRB are attached agencies of the Department of Public Works and Highways.

Ado said the threat of displacement at the PSC demonstrates the futility of privatization as an economic policy.

US report calls for complete Iraq exit in 5 years

WASHINGTON—THE UNITED States should halve its military presence in Iraq within three years and completely pull out within five years, the latest US report on the war-scarred country said Sunday.

Only then will Iraq's government, which has so far been a "disappointment," take on its own security responsibilities to rebuild the nation, the report by the United States Institute of Peace said.

"The United States faces too many challenges around the world to continue its current level of effort in Iraq, or even the deployment that was in place before the surge," the report said.

A sustainable military presence "is likely no more than half the current level within three years, with a view to removing all units within five years, when all US bases should be turned over to the Iraqi government," it said.

"Only when the Iraqis and their neighbors perceive the real prospect of US withdrawal will they feel the need to take on greater responsibility."

The institute's report was released at the start of a week of drama in Washington as General David Petraeus and Baghdad ambassador Ryan Crocker, the top two Americans in Iraq, prepare to testify in Congress Monday and Tuesday.

They face a hostile barrage from Democrats over if and when troops can come home from a four-year war that has killed more than 3,700 US soldiers, tens of thousands of Iraqis and cost half a trillion dollars.

Petraeus will argue that the contentious strategy announced by President George W. Bush in January of surging 28,500 extra troops into Iraq has slashed sectarian violence and should be extended.

But he also is expected to accept gradual cuts in the 168,000 strong US garrison in Iraq, beginning early next year.

The stage was set for Petraeus by two other reports examined in high-stakes congressional hearings last week.

In one, the non-partisan Government Accountability Office concluded Iraq's government had failed to meet 11 of 18 benchmarks for political reform.

In a second study, retired marine general James Jones warned US-trained Iraqi forces would not be able to assume combat duties alone for at least 12 to 18 months.

The Institute of Peace report argued that Bush's surge has only "marginally reduced instability in parts of the country, most notably Baghdad, from the worst days of 2006."

The recommendations were issued at the institute's behest by several experts who sat on the Iraq Study Group, a high-profile bipartisan commission that last December appealed for a new course in the war-torn nation.

The study group called for diplomatic overtures to Iran and Syria in a bid to stabilize Iraq, a series of benchmarks to judge progress by Iraqi authorities, and a US shift away from combat and to training Iraqi forces.

The Bush administration should focus on five key objectives as it charts its next steps in Iraq, the institute's report said. Those were: Prevent Iraq from becoming a safe haven for international terrorists; restore US credibility, prestige and capacity to act worldwide; improve regional stability; limit and redirect Iranian influence; maintain Iraq as a single, independent state. *AFP*

Europeans get terror training inside Pakistan

FRANKFURT, GERMANY--THE accused conspirators in a bombing plot disrupted last week in Germany were part of what authorities say is a small, but growing, flow of militants from Germany and other Western countries who are receiving terrorism training at camps in Pakistan.

Beginning early last year, at least five of the suspects traveled to the tribal regions of Waziristan, where they learned to prepare chemical explosives and military-grade detonators that they intended to use to build three car bombs, according to German officials and a confidential German intelligence document that details the allegations.

Authorities say the man they have identified as the leader of the plot, Fritz Martin Gelowicz, 28, apparently found his way to the camp in Waziristan through contacts he made at an Islamic center he attended in Neu-Ulm, Germany. Other suspects in the suspected conspiracy then followed Gelowicz to the camp, where their instructors included militant Islamists from Uzbekistan who are aligned with al-Qaida, according to the confidential document.

As further evidence of traffic between Germany and the tribal areas of Pakistan, intelligence officials said six other men from Germany who had received similar training had been detained in Pakistan, and they suspect that numerous other Germans have attended the camps without being identified by authorities.

German officials say they are troubled by evidence that al-Qaida and other groups are training Western-born recruits whose passports allow them easy access to other Western countries.

"They started to look especially for people from Europe, because they wanted to train them and later to use them here in Germany for operations," said a high-ranking German intelligence official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the ongoing investigation.

The allegations in Germany contain similarities to two high-profile cases in Britain.

German officials said they were relying largely on American and Pakistani intelligence to identify men who traveled to Waziristan, and while they declined to specify the nature of that intelligence, they said it was strong.

The amount of training under way in the tribal areas of Pakistan is difficult, if not impossible, to estimate, but intelligence officials are concerned about what they see as a trend toward terrorist groups recruiting Westerners. *NYT*

IN GOD'S GLOW

A choir boy braves the rain as he prays prior to the arrival of Pope Benedict XVI for a Mass at the cathedral of St. Stephen in Vienna, Austria, on Sept. 9. The Pontiff took a three-day visit to Austria. AP

Qaida militant behind deadliest Iraq attacks killed

BAGHDAD—A US AIR STRIKE KILLED THE al-Qaida militant who masterminded Iraq's deadliest bombings which killed more than 400 people on Aug. 14, targeting the Yazidi sect, a US military spokesperson said on Sunday.

He also said that "hundreds" of al-Qaida in Iraq had been captured or killed last month.

"On Sept. 3, a coalition air strike killed the terrorist responsible for the planning and conducting of the horrific attacks against the Yazidis in northern Iraq on Aug. 14," Rear Admiral Mark Fox said.

Abu Mohammed al-Afri, also known as Abu Jassam, was killed in the air strike, 115 km southwest of Mosul, Fox said.

He said Abu Jassam was an associate of Abu Ayyub al-Masri, the Egyptian-born leader of al-Qaida in Iraq, the local affiliate of Osama bin Laden's global jihadist group.

Entire families were wiped out after suicide bombers blew up four lorries packed with explosives in two villages inhabited by the ancient Yazidi religious sect in the northern province of Nineveh.

The bombers struck the villages of Qataniyah and Adnaniyah, razing them completely, in the deadliest attack anywhere in the world since the Sept. 11, 2001, strikes in the United States.

Yazidis, who are estimated to number several hundred thousand worldwide, speak a dialect of Kurdish but follow a pre-Islamic religion and have their own cultural traditions.

They believe in God the creator and respect the Biblical and Koranic prophets, especially Abraham, but their main focus of worship is Malak Taus, the chief of the archangels, often represented by a peacock. *AFP*

Taliban say they're ready for talks to end conflict

KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN—The Taliban said Monday it was ready for talks with the Afghan government, one day after President Hamid Karzai offered negotiations in a bid to end a bloody insurgency.

"For the sake of national interests ... we are fully ready for talks with the government," senior Taliban spokesperson Yousuf Ahmadi told AFP.

The spokesperson said the Taliban could hold talks with the Afghan government as it did with South Korean officials over 21 hostages who were freed after several meetings.

"As we did hold negotiations with the South Korean government, we can hold talks at an even higher level with the government," he said by telephone from an undisclosed location.

Karzai has regularly offered talks with the Taliban, which was in government between 1996 and 2001, and there have been rumors that contact has already been made. *AFP*

Burma deploys police at monasteries to curb monks

RANGOON, BURMA—BURMA'S military government stepped up monitoring of monasteries nationwide, witnesses said Monday, as part of a campaign to snuff out the worst protests to rock the impoverished nation in nearly a decade.

At the same time, the government tried to play down the significance of the monks' actions. It issued statements over the weekend suggesting the monks were organized by prodemocracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy party, with the support of Western embassies, aimed at undermining the government.

Since Aug. 19, prodemocracy groups have been staging street protests over the government's decision to increase fuel prices by as much as 500 percent. Pro-junta supporters have beaten protesters and authorities have arrested dozens.

The protests took a more confrontational tone last week in northern Burma (also known as Myanmar), when Buddhist monks—angry at being beaten up for protesting the economic conditions—temporarily took officials hostage and later smashed a shop and a house belonging to junta supporters.

Monks also reportedly formed a group over the weekend called the National Front of Monks, according to the prodemocracy group US Campaign For Burma. The front has demanded that authorities apologize for the violence, reduce fuel prices, release all political prisoners and begin negotiations with Suu Kyi and other democratic leaders.

It was impossible to independently verify the existence of the new group nor its demands.

The violence involving the monks has prompted authorities to post police for the first time at monasteries in the key Buddhist cities of Pakokku and Mandalay, as well as the country's largest city of Rangoon (Yangon), to prevent further protests from the revered monks, witnesses said.

Authorities accused Suu Kyi's NLD of organizing the monks to demonstrate and maliciously blaming government supporters for attacking the monks, which prompted "agitated mobs to destroy the homes and shops of those whom they had falsely accused." *AP*

Genetic response to changes in diet seen

COULD PEOPLE ONE DAY evolve to eat rich food while remaining perfectly slim and svelte?

This may not be so wild a fantasy. It is becoming clear that the human genome does respond to changes in diet, even though it takes many generations to do so.

Researchers studying the enzyme that converts starch to simple sugars like glucose have found that people living in countries with a high-starch diet produce considerably more of the enzyme than people who eat a low-starch diet.

The reason is an evolutionary one. People in high-starch countries have many extra copies of the amylase gene that makes the starch-converting enzyme, a group led by George H. Perry of Arizona State University and Nathaniel J. Dominy of the University of California, Santa Cruz, reported Sunday.

The production of the extra copies seems to have been favored by natural selection, according to a genetic test, the authors say. *NYT*

Iran launches new 'moral' crackdowns

TEHRAN—IRAN IS PRESSING on with one of its toughest moral crackdowns in years, warning tens of thousands of women over slack dress, targeting "immoral" cafés and seizing illegal satellite receivers, local media reported on Monday.

The Iranian police launched the crackdown in April in a self-declared drive to "elevate security in society" that encompassed arrests of thugs, raids on underground parties and street checks of improperly dressed individuals.

Reza Zarei, commander of police in Tehran province, said that since the drive began police in his region have handed out 113,454 warnings to women found to have infringed Iran's strict Islamic dress rules.

"Of these 1,600 cases have been given to the judiciary" for further investigation, he said.

He added that 5,700 people—including 1,400 men—have been sent to "guidance classes" on how to behave in society.

Zarei said police have been targeting billiard halls and coffee shops—the latter hugely popular in Tehran as a meeting place for men and women—as certain establishments promoted immorality.

"One of the main grounds for the creation of social and ethical crimes are billiard halls and coffee shops," he said.

The student news agency Isna and the Kargozaran newspaper quoted Zarei as saying that police had shut down 3,000 coffee shops and billiard halls although the official Irna news agency said the establishments had merely been given warnings.

"I am pleased to have carried out this plan to elevate security in society," Zarei said.

Watching satellite television is illegal in the Islamic republic as it is deemed to spread decadence and has long been the target of periodic crackdowns by the police. *AFP*

RELATIVES of Colombian lawmakers who were kidnapped by the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, or Farc, and who died in captivity, grieve as they leave the morgue where the Red Cross transported the lawmakers' remains in Cali, Colombia, on Sept. 9. AP

Bodies of kidnapped Colombia solons unearthed

BOGOTA—THE RED CROSS ON Sunday handed forensic experts 11 bodies believed to be the remains of Colombian lawmakers killed in rebel captivity as authorities tried to end a bitter dispute over how the men died.

The killing of the legislators underscored the plight of hostages held for years by Latin America's oldest left-wing insurgency, including French-Colombian politician Ingrid Betancourt and three American contract workers.

Families of the lawmakers gathered outside the forensic medical center in Cali, where experts will identify the remains to see whether the men died in a crossfire in June as rebels claim, or were murdered by guerrillas as the government says.

"This was a humanitarian gesture, because of the pain of the families, not just these ones, but of many, and their right to know what happened to their loved ones in this armed conflict," Christoph Vogt, Red Cross team leader, said.

The remains were unearthed from shallow graves on Saturday in a remote jungle site where the Farc had given the Red Cross coordinates to find the slain legislators. They were kidnapped in 2002 during a rebel raid on the local legislative building in Cali.

Violence from Colombia's four-decade guerrilla war has eased under President Alvaro Uribe's US-backed security crackdown, but thousands of people are still killed, maimed by landmines or displaced by combat every year.

The Farc, or the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, wants Uribe to cede a demilitarized safe haven the size of New York City as a condition for releasing hostages. But he says the rebels will use such an area to regroup.

The United States and European governments brand the Farc a terrorist organization deeply involved in Colombia's huge cocaine smuggling business.

France, Spain and Switzerland are engaged in attempts to broker an agreement over freeing hostages, and Venezuela's President Hugo Chavez said recently he would meet with a Farc representative in Venezuela in an effort to end the deadlock. *Reuters*

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

Ex-PM returns to Pakistan, is deported

SHARIF on plane heading toward Islamabad. REUTERS

ISLAMABAD—FORMER PAKISTANI PRIME MINister Nawaz Sharif was arrested and deported to Saudi Arabia on Monday within hours of arriving home from exile, vowing to end the rule of President Pervez Musharraf.

Sharif's return from seven years in exile, most recently in London, was always going to spark a confrontation with General Musharraf, the army chief who ousted Sharif in 1999 and cast him into exile in Saudi Arabia the following year.

"He has been deported ... he has been sent to Jeddah," said a security official who declined to be identified.

Sharif was arrested after a melee in an airport lounge where he and his supporters were taken after a tense 90-minute standoff with authorities on board the aircraft he arrived on.

Shortly before his arrest, Sharif told Reuters he was happy to be home: "It's a great feeling. Up to here it's fine but beyond, through there, I don't know," he said in the airport lounge, pointing to the exit.

Earlier, security forces sealed off Islamabad airport to stop Sharif's supporters approaching. Authorities also blocked the main road to the northwestern city of Peshawar.

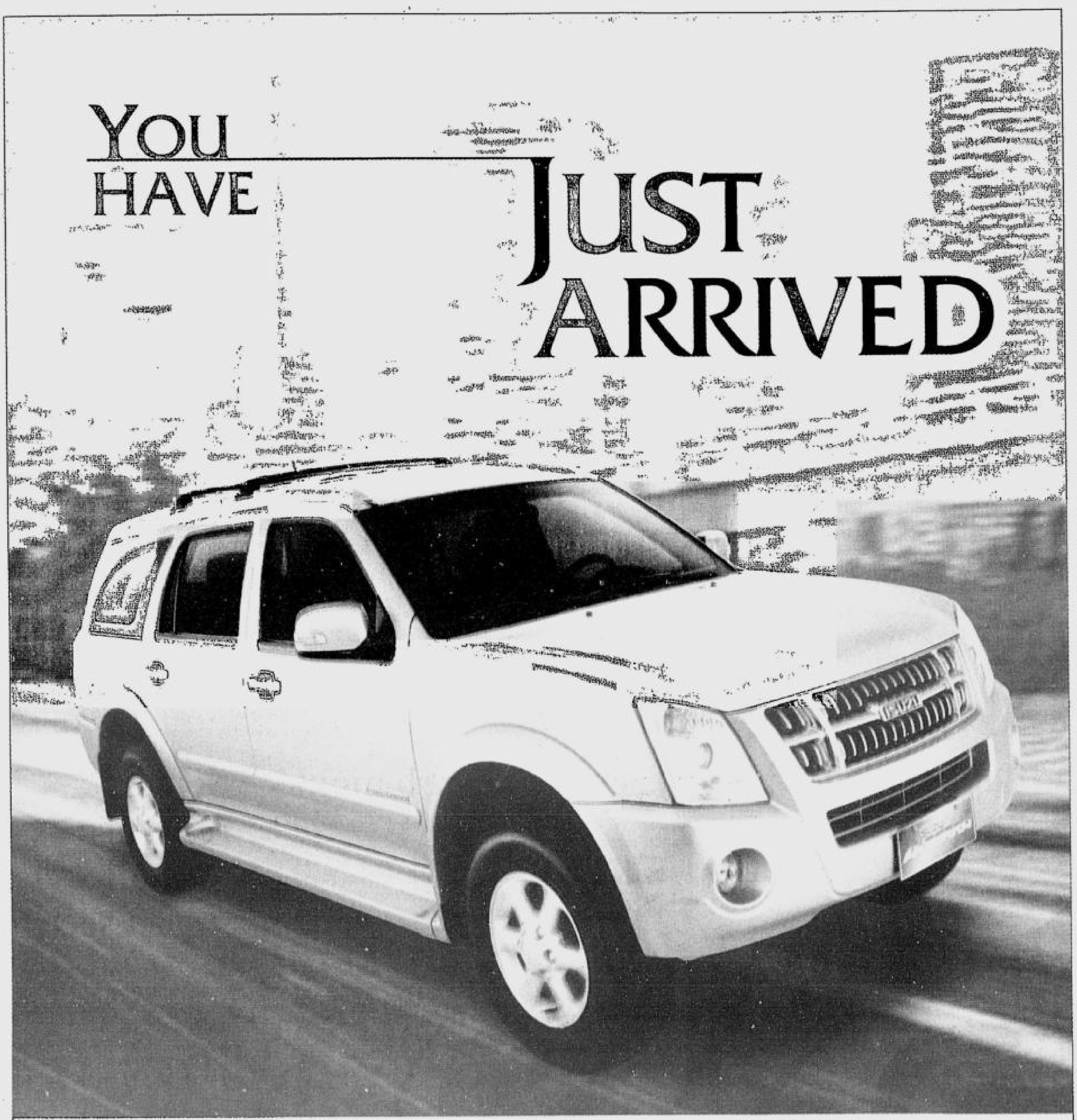
Five people were wounded in an exchange of fire when Sharif's supporters tried to force their way through police lines on a bridge on the road to Peshawar, a witness said.

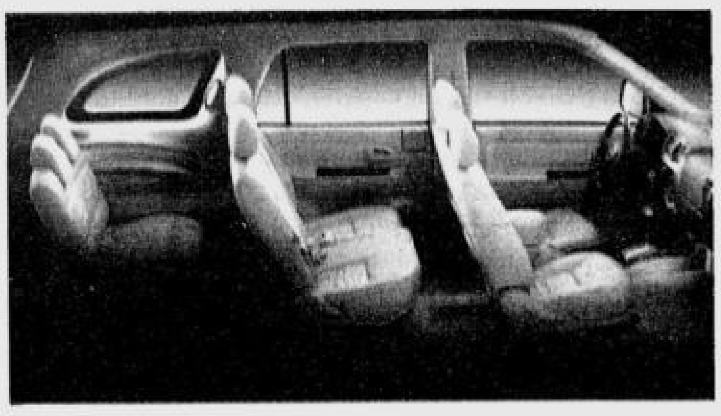
Police fired tear gas and used batons to disperse about 700 Sharif supporters and lawyers about 3 km away from the airport.

The protesters, waving party flags and holding portraits of Sharif, threw stones at police and chanted "Go Musharraf go." Scores of supporters scuffled with police in Islamabad.

Sharif's British lawyer, Amjad Malik, who accompanied Sharif from London appealed for calm: "People in Pakistan should be calm and composed and understand what has happened to their former prime minister."

Sharif was dogged by accusations of corruption during his two terms as prime minister in the 1990s. An anticorruption court last month reopened three cases against him at the request of the government. *Reuters*





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1 more victim named on 9/11 6th anniversary

NEW YORK—JOSEPH JONES MARKS HIS wife's death on two days each year.

Every Feb. 10—the day she died of lung disease—Jones lays flowers at her grave in Staten Island. On Sept. 11—the day the World Trade Center collapsed and she inhaled the toxic dust cloud that enveloped lower Manhattan—Jones watches television at home, listening to 2,749 names of the financial workers, firefighters, parents and children who were killed in the attack.

For the first time on Tuesday, Jones is going to a small park southeast of ground zero, where he will stand for hours with those victims' families marking the sixth anniversary and hear the name of his wife, Felicia Dunn-Jones, who died just five months after the towers fell. He is not sure how he will feel.

"It's just a sense of sadness, really," he said. "It's just a sense of acknowledgment that ... her death was caused by events happening that day."

The addition of Dunn-Jones, a 42-year-old civil rights attorney, to New York City's Sept. 11 death toll occurred in a year that sharply focused on post-Sept. 11 illness—and the legacy of the cleanup of ground zero—more than ever before.

That legacy was painfully altered by the unearthing of several hundred human remains from streets and sewer lines around the trade center site, which officials acknowledged were missed the first year. Doctors published more studies establishing direct links to respiratory illnesses and the exposure to the mixture of pulverized concrete, asbestos, mercury and other toxins that wafted over ground zero for close to a year. One study showed a powerful connection to sarcoidosis—the lung-scarring disease that killed Dunn-Jones—and city firefighters.

"I don't think anyone's questioning any more how many thousands of people are sick," said David Worby, who represents close to 10,000 plaintiffs suing the city and contractors who oversaw ground zero's cleanup. More than 100 of his plaintiffs have died, he says.

City officials have argued that more research is needed before the true health effects of Sept. 11 can be proven. But they significantly changed their position this year, commissioning a health panel that concluded in February that treating the ailments of exposed workers could cost close to $400 million a year.

"We are not about to abandon the men and women who helped lift our city back onto its feet during our greatest time of need," Mayor Michael Bloomberg said at the time.

Three months later, city Medical Examiner Charles Hirsch surprised many by adding Dunn-Jones' name to the official Sept. 11 victims' list.

Citing "accumulated scientific research" that linked sarcoidosis to ground zero exposure, Hirsch wrote in May, "the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner has thus concluded that Mrs. Dunn-Jones' exposure to World Trade Center dust on 9/11/01 contributed to her death and it has been ruled a homicide."

His ruling did not bring her husband money—he had already received over $2 million from special master Kenneth Feinberg, who oversaw the federal fund that compensated Sept. 11 victims. Jones just sought recognition that her death was caused by Sept. 11 to allow him to hear her name read at anniversary ceremonies and etched onto the Sept. 11 memorial.

"Feinberg said she was a victim of the terrorist attacks. If she was a victim of the terrorist attacks, her name should be on the list," said Jones, 55, although he added he understands why more people haven't waged similar fights. "Sometimes people just don't want to get involved. It's hard enough losing somebody."

On Sept. 11, while Jones watched planes hit the towers from the Staten Island Ferry terminal, Dunn-Jones tried to escape her office a block from the north tower. She put a piece of clothing over her face but could not keep the choking, white dust out of her lungs, Jones said.

She developed "just this crazy, persistent cough," mostly at night, Jones said. *AP*

WHAT'S INSIDE

Flawless Tiger bags 60th win with 63 /A25

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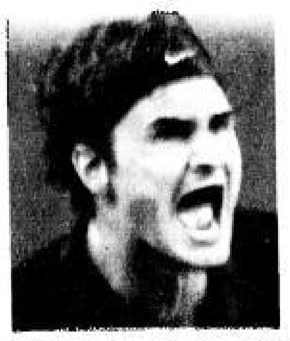

Federer extends US Open reign /A27

NO PROTEST

UAAP upholds Ateneo victory

By Jasmine W. Payo

THE UAAP TECHNICAL COMMITTEE YESterday lost no time nipping in the bud another potential controversy between fierce rivals Ateneo and La Salle.

And La Salle officials denied that they would file a protest anew in the wake of its numbing defeat to Ateneo on Sunday, even as reports circulated that they would seek clarification on a call at the final buzzer that should have given the Archers two foul shots.

The Eagles got away with a slim 89-87 triumph over the Archers after the technical committee ruled that the potential game-tying putback by Rico Maierhofer did not beat the game clock.

In the same sequence, Maierhofer also drew a foul that could have given the Archers two free throws.

"Both the call and the shot did not make it in regulation time," UAAP commissioner Ed Cordero told the INQUIRER yesterday.

"We reviewed the tape on the court. And we also reviewed the digital tape last night (Sunday night) in the ABS-CBN van. At 00:00, the ball was still in the hands of [Maierhofer] and the referee's hand was in a downward position. The referee raised his hand to signal a foul after the buzzer."

Chris Tiu's triple with 17.8 seconds left decided the win for the Eagles, who completed an elimination-round sweep of the Archers.

With the victory, the Eagles also tied the Archers in second spot at 9-4.

"We made the stop when we had to, even if it's at the last second, at the last split second," said Ateneo coach Norman Black. "A win is a win is a win. We move on."

The animosity between the two powerhouse squads gained more color this season after the Archers placed under protest its first-round loss, 80-77 in overtime, against the Eagles.

But league officials junked La Salle's complaint after a week, saying that Ateneo did not violate a league rule on the fielding of foreign players.

The Eagles and the Archers will dispute second spot against separate rivals next week.

The Archers have to contend with the unbeaten University of the East Warriors on Thursday, while the Eagles will tackle the eliminated National University Bulldogs on Saturday.

STANDINGS	W	L
UE	13	0
Ateneo	9	4
La Salle	9	4
Santo Tomas	8	5
Far Eastern	7	6
National U	5	8
Adamson	1	12
UP	0	13

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4 SEA Games hopefuls fail to impress coach Baculi

By Jasmine W. Payo

FOUR NEW BASKETBALL FACES showed up, but none made a strong impact on the coaching staff of the Philippine team.

Kevin Dalafu, Amir Mazarei, Kevin White and Richard Cole—all overseas-born cagers with Filipino roots—tried out yesterday for the all-amateur squad that will see action in the Southeast Asian Games in Thailand this December.

But, except for the 6-foot-2 Dalafu and the 6-2 Cole, Mazarei and White stood below six feet.

"Our problem is we need big men, but they're all guards," said Philippine team coach Junel Baculi. "We will evaluate and compare them with our local shooters. And we'll just pick whoever emerges best."

White is the nephew of Talk 'N Text point guard Jimmy Alapag, while Dalafu suited up for the Vanguard University of Southern California. Fil-Iranian Mazarei played for the University of Redlands in Thousand Oaks, California.

Baculi said the four players will join this week's practice of the young squad bannered by Jason Castro, the PBL back-to-back Most Valuable Player, and 6-foot-6 slotman Beau Belga.

"They're for further evaluation; but if they were seven-footers, I would have quickly gotten them in," he said.

Baculi remained hopeful that Gabe Norwood, the 6-foot-5 Fil-American guard, will suit up for the national team again after playing for the all-pro San Miguel-RP squad in the Fiba Asia championship on Tokushima, Japan last July.

"We're in constant communication with him," the multititled mentor said. "I think he will join us. He has committed himself, but anything can happen in the last minute. So we'll just wait and see."

The coaching staff plans to form a pool of 15 players that will likely include several collegiate standouts at month's end.

"We're looking at players in the NCAA and the UAAP, but our arrangement with both leagues is for them to lend the players after the season," said Baculi. "But at least the core of our team has been practicing since July."

NCAA beefs up security for Final 4

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE NCAA IS ON "RED ALERT."

When the Final Four starts tomorrow—which incidentally coincides with the promulgation of the verdict on the case of former President Joseph Estrada—additional security personnel from the Araneta Coliseum and the participating schools will police the stands.

Things almost went out of hand during the recent San Beda-Jose Rizal game where JRU coach Ariel Vanguardia and San Beda coach Frankie Lim almost came to blows after their teams' game at The Arena in San Juan.

Coins were thrown and a fistfight also erupted in the stands in last week's San Beda-Letran game at the Big Dome.

"Even before they set the date of promulgation of the [Estrada] case, we already announced our schedule of the Final Four," said NCAA management committee chair Paul Supan of Jose Rizal during yesterday's press conference.

"We are not leaving anything to chance with regard to the security inside the Big Dome."

He said the coliseum will field 60 more security guards and each of the four semifinalists—San Beda, Letran, Jose Rizal and Mapua—will provide five to 10 guards to beef up the venue's security.

The additional Araneta security personnel also policed the venue during Sunday's UAAP game between Ateneo and La Salle, according to Supan.

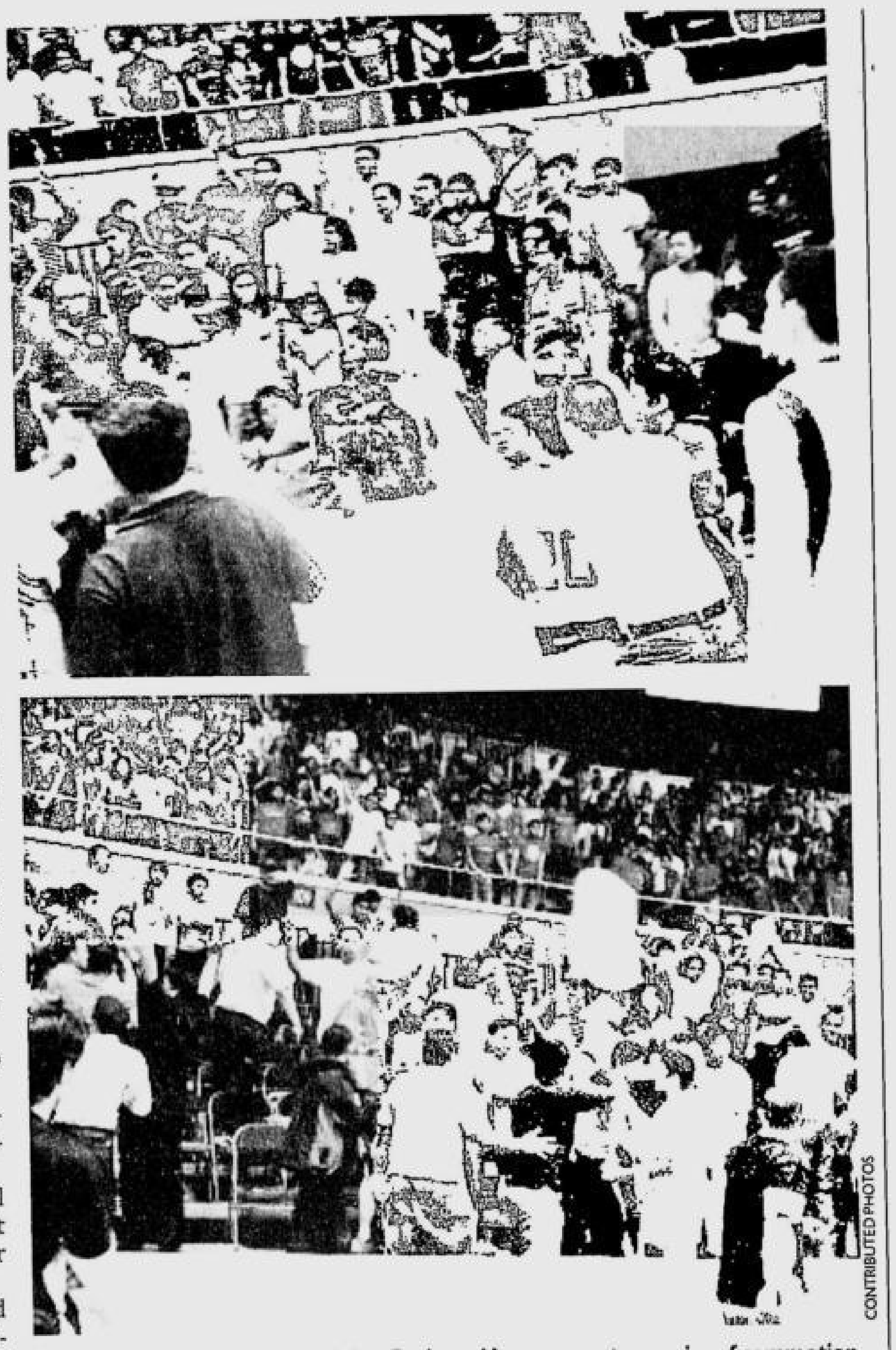
"We need to police our own ranks," said San Beda management committee representative Albert Almendralejo.

Vanguardia and Mapua coach Leo Isaac also attended the luncheon.

Lim failed to attend yesterday's session and sent JB Sison instead, while Letran's Louie Alas was indisposed.

"We vow that nothing untoward will happen," said Supan, who added that the league will throw any troublemaker out of the venue.

The NCAA has earlier authorized commissioner Chito Narvasa to automatically eject a player who commits a flagrant foul during the games.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

BOILING POINT: Fans of both San Beda and Letran create a series of commotion in the stands during the two squads' recent match at the Araneta Coliseum.

BID-PBA TEAMWORK

Philippine Basketball Association chair Tony Chua (left) and Commissioner Marcelino Libanan of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation seal with a handshake a pledge to renew a memorandum of agreement on the facilitation of work permits for PBA imports. With Chua during the recent courtesy call on the BID chief is PBA officer-in-charge Sonny Barrios (right). Chua and Barrios invited Libanan, an avid fan of basketball, to grace the opening of the league's 33rd season on Oct. 14 at the Araneta Coliseum.

MLQU gets back at Feati five, extends hot streak

DEFENDING CHAMPION MANUEL LUIS Quezon University continued its impressive form, nipping first-round tormentor Feati University, 63-62, at the start of the second round of eliminations in the 13th Colleges and Universities Sports Association (Cusa) basketball tournament at the Trinity gym in Quezon City.

The Stallions, who are hoping to retain the title they won over the Philippine Maritime Institute Admirals last year, drew firepower from Alvin Vitug, Rolando Manalansan and Lester Tadlas to extend their remarkable winning streak to seven games.

Vitug topscored with 17 points for MLQU, which topped the first round of eliminations with a 6-1 win-loss record.

Israel de la Cruz and Marvin Agacer paced the Seahawks with 16 and 13 points, respectively.

The Seahawks took their fourth straight loss after winning their first four.

Central Colleges of the Philippines downed Trinity University, 93-85, to grab second with its fifth win in eight outings.

STANDINGS	W	L
MLQU	7	1
CCP	5	3
De Ocampo	4	3
FEATI	4	4
MMC	3	4
UA-P	3	4
PCCr	2	5
Trinity	2	6

The varsity scores:

Second Game (Men)

CCP 93—Sonza 31, Pangilinan 26, Carreon 14, Corpuz 7, De Guzman 5, Lising 4, Benabese 4, Meneses 0.

TRINITY 85—Susi 19, Emata 18, Medrana 18, Espa 14, Magadia 6, Pasco 3, Borgonia 2, Toribio 2.

Quarters: 21-24, 47-45, 65-63, 93-85

Third Game (Men)

MLQU 63—Vitug 17, Manalansan 15, Tadlas 10, Dizon 8, Patricio 6, Custodio 5, Tamayo 0, Sumayang 0.

FEATI 62—Dela Cruz 16, Agacer 13, Gonzales 11, Relova 5, Leonida 5, Tuano 2, Gatchalian 4, Ramos 2, Bituin 2, Tasara 0.

Quarters: 13-12, 31-26, 42-49, 63-62

Wake-up call

CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I FEEL UTTERLY FRUSTRATED BY THE fact that our battle-tested billiards players, supposedly the cream of the crop, did not win a single leg in the recent Guinness 9-Ball Tour.

Am I the only one?

Cue artists from Taiwan, led by Yang Chin-shun, also known as the "Son of Pool," and up-and-coming Chang Jun-ling, scored a rare sweep in the inaugural Guinness Tour, a five-leg Asian circuit which culminated with the staging of the Grand Finale in Bali, Indonesia, recently.

Yang won three legs (Singapore, Kaohsiung and Shanghai) while Chang won twice (the leg opener in Jakarta and the grand finale in Bali). Two other Chinese Taipei bets, former World Pool champions Chao Fong-pang and Wu Chia-ching provided valuable support act.

Among the Filipino bets who did well in this year's Tour were Lee Vann Corteza of Negros Billiards Stable and double world champion Ronnie Alcano of Bugsy Promotions, who both settled for second place.

* * *

The legendary Efren "Bata" Reyes and his longtime partner, Francisco "Django" Bustamante, did not see action in the Guinness Tour because they reportedly have an existing contract with another company which sells the same product.

By the way, these two Puyat Sports mainstays are slated to defend their World Cup of Pool title in Rotterdam, Holland, on Sept. 25-30.

Filipino cue artists showed their dominance of the event in the past. Last year, they swept the four-leg San Miguel Asian 9-Ball Tour, with the 53-year-old Reyes winning two legs and Ramil Gallego and Rodolfo Luat snaring one apiece.

* * *

THE 1947 NCAA basketball teams of Ateneo, La Salle, Letran, San Beda, Jose Rizal and Mapua will celebrate their Diamond Jubilee at 10 a.m. on Sunday at the Letran College chapel in Intramuros.

Living basketball players of 1947 will attend together with the heirs of the deceased. Among the living members are Virgilio "Baby" Dalupan of Ateneo, Carlos "Jun" Iñigo, Jose Mendieta, Lino Castillejo and Horacio Nable of La Salle, Crispin Aldiosa, Rosalito Gabriel, Juan Cabrera, Amelo Lizares, Julian Malonso and Justo Ortiz of Letran, Antonio Genato and Vicente Narciso of San Beda, and Ben Gaddi and Jose Lim of Mapua and the heirs of Francisco Calilan and Fidencio Ylagan.

The only living member of the 1947 NCAA board of control is Rev. Fr. Gregorio Raymundo, O.P. of Letran.

* * *

Kudos to the players and coaching staff of Spring Cooking Oil-Malabon for a well-deserved victory in the national inter-city basketball championship at the San Andres gym recently.

The Cooking Oil Masters beat Wang's Ball Club-Mandaluyong, 95-88, to clinch the title.

Owned by sportsman-businessman Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla, son of Olympian shooter Tom Ong, Spring Cooking Oil-Malabon will see action in the Hualien Invitational next month in Taiwan.

* * *

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS. I would like to express my gratitude to the people who made possible the publication of the book "Sports @ FEU": Former Philippine Olympic Committee president Col. Julian Malonso, FEU assistant vice president for operations Renato Silva, sportswriters Dennis Eroa and Eddie Alinea, sports photographers Ramon Vecina and Ramon Esguerra, the Green and Gold Yearbook staff members and researchers and, last but not the least, the sportsminded grandsons of FEU founder Dr. Nicanor Reyes-Nicanor Reyes III (son of Nicanor "Noring" Reyes Jr.) and Dennis Alampay Reyes (son of Alfredo "Ding" Reyes), Anton Montinola (son of FEU chair Lourdes Reyes Montinola) and FEU president Lydia B. Echauz.

I would also like to thank my friends and my two daughters—Lovely and Coleen Iñigo—who encouraged me to write the book.

SPORTSWATCH

Olivarez puts away 2 titles; Amoranto, Cordero prevail

WORLD JUNIORS CHAMPIONSHIPS VETeran Shanine Olivarez scored contrasting victories to pocket a pair of titles Sunday in the Philta-TGI Junior Championships at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Shanine, youngest child of Philippine Tennis Association chair and former Parañaque City mayor Pablo Olivarez, needed an extra set to win the 16-under title over Macy Gonzales, 6-4, 4-6, 6-2. She later annexed the 14-under crown by drubbing Samantha Coyiuto, 6-1, 6-3.

In other results, Trudy Amoranto bested Macy Solon, 6-1, 6-3, for the 18-under title, Crizzabelle Paulino survived Akiko de Guzman, 7-6 (1), 6-4, for the 12-under plum and Eric Olivarez topped the unisex 10-under over Ivan Valenzuela, 6-4, 6-1.

In the boys' division, Kyle Cordero outplayed Michael Tamayo, 7-5, 6-4, for the 18-under title, Kim Ivor Saraza nailed the 16-under title over Rolee Joven, 6-1, 6-1, Fritz Verdad rallied past Arjohn dela Cruz, 1-6, 6-3, 6-2, to clinch the 14-under title and Argil Canizares won the 12-under title over Joachim Samson, 6-4, 6-1.

Top seed ends up on top

JERRY AREQUE LIVED UP TO HIS NO. 1 ranking by beating seventh seed Manolito Padrigone in 35 moves of an Irregular opening and bagging the September edition of the MCC 2000-below active chess tournament Sunday at St. Francis Square in Mandaluyong City.

Areque finished with 5.5 points on five wins and one draw after six rounds of play in claiming his second MCC title.

Second seed Harrison Maamo settled for second place with 5 points after besting Ferdinand Palermo in 30 moves of a Reti.

Ricardo Jimenez was third with 4.5 points. Tied for fourth to seventh places with 4 each were Richelieu Salcedo, Padrigone, Rommel Valdez and Samuel Visperas. Salcedo, 13, was the best junior player and Visperas the best unrated performer.

Interchurch caging Aug 26

TEN CHURCH-BASED TEAMS FROM Metro Manila make up the field in the first Interchurch Basketball Tournament which opens on Aug. 26 at the Central Colleges of the Philippines gym in Manila.

Organized by the Philippine-Chinese Interchurch Basketball League and sponsored by World Traveler and Mannasoft, the event has drawn teams from Bible Seminary of the Philippines, Gerizim-Makati Hope Christian Church, Grace Gospel Church, Glory Evangelical Church, Jubilee Evangelical Church, Makati Gospel Church, St. Stephen Parish Church, United Evangelical Church of Greenhills, United Evangelical Church of Manila, Westminster Student Church.

Host Sports Ministry in Action of Grace gospel church has invited, among others, Pastor Vicente Sia, Dr. Rev David Go, Bro. Tine Hardeman and BSOP president Dr. Joseph Shao to the opening ceremonies.

Pasig Square Garden opens

THE PASIG SQUARE GARDEN WILL HAVE its grand opening under new management today via a "Fastest Win One-Cock Ulutan" beginning at 8 a.m.

New venue promoters Manny Berbano of Pitgames magazine and Danny Ty of Showdown fame are staking a guaranteed prize of P500,000. Entry fee is P1,500.

The first 10 winners will get P3,000 each; 11th to 20th winners, P2,000 each and last 10 winners, a mountain bike each.

The PSG is now the official home of the Rizal Gamecock Breeders Association (RGBA). Likewise, Bakbakan derbies of the National Federation of Gamefowl Breeders (NFGB) will be staged at the venue.

RACING TIPS

BY TOP CHOICE

Race 1—(Qrt/Tri)—Dulce My Love (1), St. Emilion (8), All Class (4), Ilocos Princess (5)

Race 2—(Qrt/Tri)—Prussian Gunner (2), Princess Tokai (3), Instant (5), Wind Shore Lady (6)

Race 3—(Qrt/Tri)—Blue Sheikh (3), Ocean Cookie (2), Real Tough (7), Angie Red (1)

Race 4—(Qrt/Tri)—Speed Admiral (2), Bloodline (3), Mr. Lucas (5), Just A Moment (4)

Race 5—(Penta/Qrt/Tri)—Crafty Treasure (7), King's Treasure (6), La Perouse (1), Reigns Supreme (3), Spanish Drums (9)

Race 6—(Qrt/Tri)—Refreshing (8), Princess Sophia (4), Hurry Princess (7), Alam Mo Na Yan (6)

Race 7—(Qrt/Tri)—King Aljhun (1), Kate Alessandra (3), Weekend Master (2), Common Goal (8)

Race 8—(Super 6/Qrt/Tri)—Cara Dura (5), Luck Of The Irish (12), Quick Play (3), Strong Boy (6), Fuego (2), T-Mac (4)

Flawless Tiger bags 60th crown with 63

Assumes fifth on PGA's all-time list

CHICAGO—TIGER WOODS FIRED A flawless eight-under-par 63 here Sunday to claim a two-shot victory at the seven million-dollar BMW Championship.

Woods, who started the day one shot off the lead, had eight birdies in ideal scoring conditions at Cog Hill, which had been softened by recent rain.

He broke away with four birdies in five holes on the back nine, matching the course record and finishing with a 22-under total of 262.

The world No. 1 claimed his sixth US PGA Tour victory of the year, and the 60th of his career.

Only Sam Snead with 82, Jack Nicklaus with 73, Ben Hogan with 64 and Arnold Palmer with 62 won more.

Woods also passed the 75 million-dollar mark in career earnings.

"I never, ever would have dreamt that this could have happened so soon," said the 31-year-old Woods. "This is my 12th season, and to have this many wins, I never could have foreseen that. I've exceeded my expectations and it's been a lot of fun to enjoy that whole road, that whole process to get to 60." Woods also moved back to the top of the standings in the new FedEx Cup playoff series, which concludes with the Tour Championship next week.

The man leading the standings after next week's concluding Tour Championship will earn a 10 million-dollar bonus.

Australian Aaron Baddeley, who led Woods by one stroke with seven holes to play, fired a 66 and finished second on 20-under 264.

American Steve Stricker was two shots further back after a closing 68.

England's Justin Rose, who played the final round with Woods, had a decent day, carding a 68, but he was never in the hunt after starting five shots back, finishing tied for fifth.

Still, Rose is the only British player to advance to the 30-man Tour Championship, with Luke Donald and Ian Poulter eliminated, Donald by the smallest of margins.

He finished 31st on the points list, one spot behind Irishman Padraig Harrington. Harrington, the British Open champion, took the week off but still held on to the final qualifying spot.

Woods, meanwhile, picked up four birdies on the front nine, but could not break clear of Stricker and Baddeley, all three making the turn locked at 18-under.

It seemed for a long time that nobody on the leaderboard could miss from inside 15 feet, as all three leaders reeled off a hat-trick of birdies at the seventh, eighth and ninth.

Woods fell one behind when Baddeley birdied the par-five 11th, then the world No. 1 asserted himself.

He sank a 50-foot monster at the par-three 12th, and also birdied the 13th, 15th and16th.

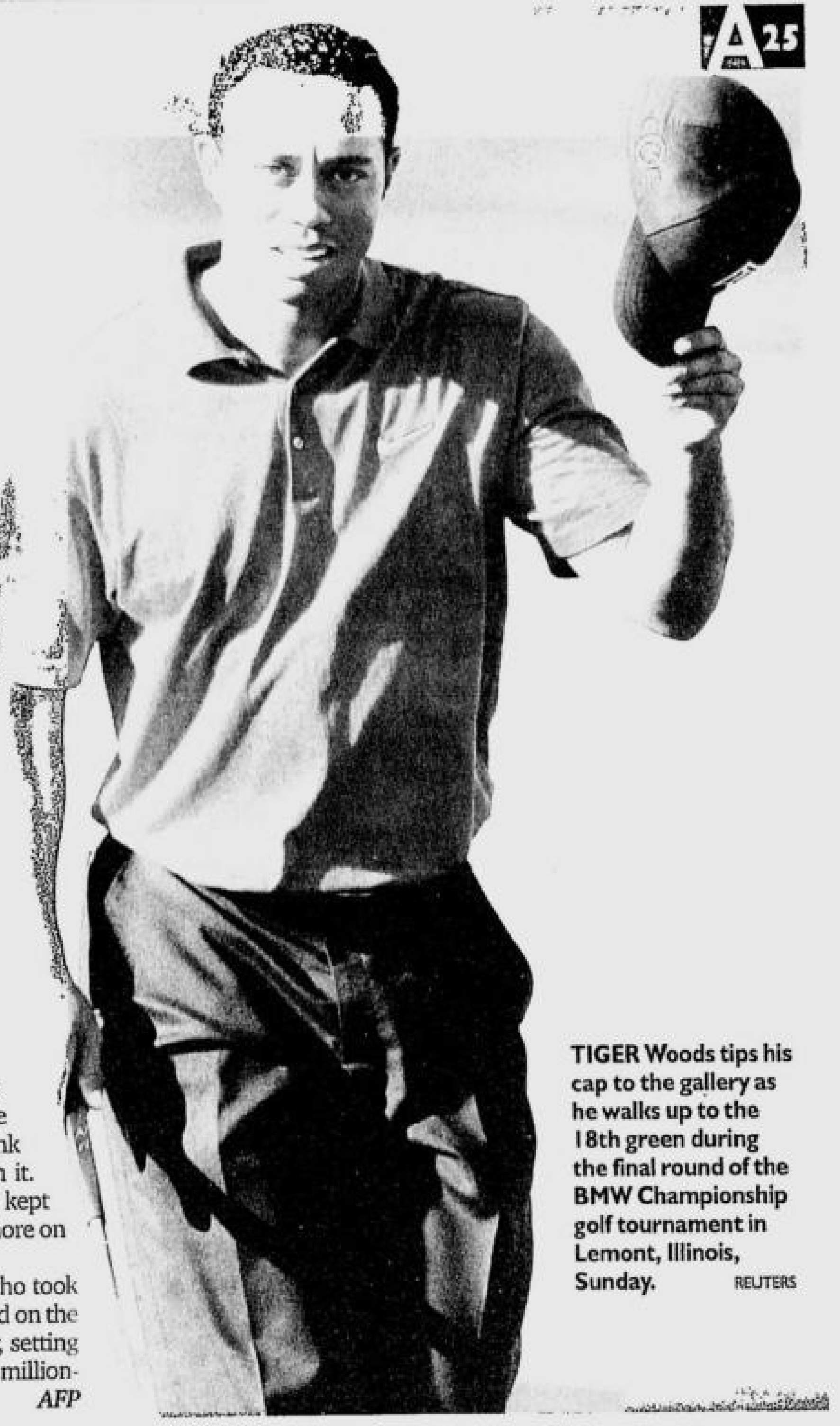
"Obviously, I saw him make the birdie there," Stricker said of Woods' bomb at 12. "It looked like he looked back to make sure we were watching him."

Woods denied he had his eye on the competition, but said he knew he had to keep the pressure on to withstand them.

"Normally, you don't have to make that many birdies," Woods said. "But with the conditions this soft the guys are just going to beat this place apart. I think the three of us just got wrapped up in it. We were all making birdies and we kept pushing each other. I just made a few more on that back nine."

The big loser was Phil Mickelson, who took the week off, dropping from first to third on the points list, behind Woods and Stricker, setting the scene for a great battle for the 10 million-dollar bonus.

AFP



TIGER Woods tips his cap to the gallery as he walks up to the 18th green during the final round of the BMW Championship golf tournament in Lemont, Illinois, Sunday. REUTERS

Suntory Open: Miñoza salvages 13th

MIÑOZA: Lucky 13th

CHIBA PREFECTURE, JAPAN—A TRIO OF Asian Tour stars—Frankie Miñoza of the Philippines and Thai duo Prom Meesawat and Thammanoon Srirot—finished joint 13th in the weather-shortened Suntory Open of the Japan Tour on Sunday.

Miñoza, who had earlier rounds of 67-72, and Thammanoon signed off with an even-par 70 for a 209 total while Prom, who started the third round in joint fifth place, carded a 72.

The trio, along with four others, won ¥1,227,857 (about P491,000) each.

They finished seven shots behind winner Hideto Tanihara, the veteran Japanese, who wound up with 202 after rounds of 65-71-66.

In the Omega European Masters, India's Jeev Milkha Singh, the reigning Asian Tour's UBS Order of Merit champion, carded rounds of 74, 68, 72 and 68 to finish tied for 31st place.

Singh's 282 total was 14 shots behind winner Brett Rumford of Australia, who defeated Phillip Archer with a chip-in birdie in a sudden-death play-off.

Shiv Kapur of India, the 2005 Asian Tour Rookie of the Year, was 66th after rounds of 72, 72, 76 and 70.

Asian Tour News

Marcelo keeps fiery karting form in Cebu

CEBU CITY—YOUNG KARTING ACE Jean Stefano Marcelo continued his domination of the 2007 Shell Helix Karting Super Series with a scrambling win yesterday in the sixth leg at the Kart Zone in Mabolo here.

The 15-year-old Marcelo rallied from the tailend of the 12-man pack and turned back top Cebuano favorite Matteo Guidicelli in his own turf to rule the Formula 125 Seniors Open crown.

"Having gone through a lot of pressure and tension, this is a memorable victory," said Marcelo, who padded his lead for the coveted Karter of the Year award.

Marcelo was held back when his chains broke in Saturday's qualifying heat, leaving him last on the grid for the pre-final race.

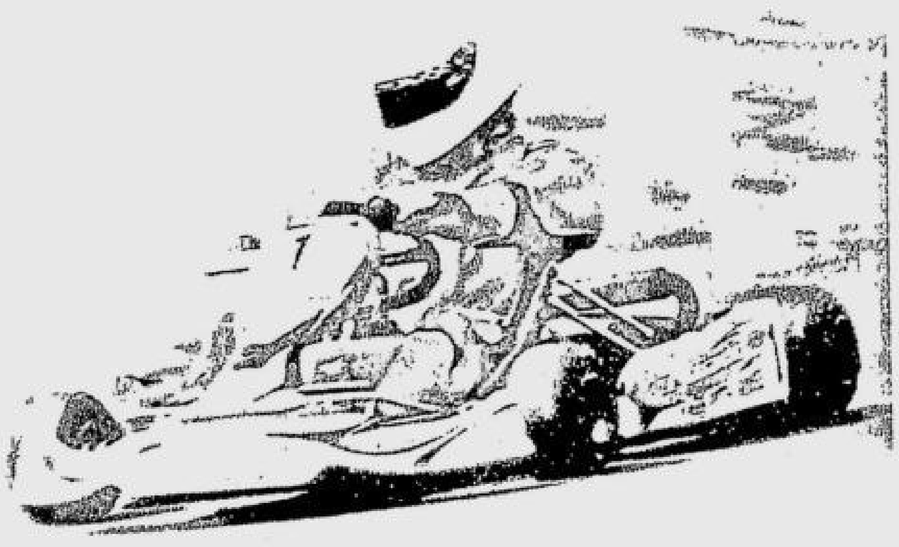
But the determined Marcelo, recalling his come-from-behind feat in the Indonesian leg of the Asian Karting championship recently, clawed his way to the top and earned the No. 1 spot on the grid in the final race of the premier division.

Marcelo, visibly upset after a still unexplained off-track incident before the race, and Guidicelli quicly pulled away from the pack after Alessandra Madrigal and Maico Angeles figured in a pile-up at the first turn.

Marcelo, who is preparing for his campaign in the 2007 World ROK Championship this October in Lonato, Italy, then grabbed the lead to win with more than a 100-meter margin over Guidicelli.

"This experience gives me the mental toughness I need to go up against the world's best karters in the World ROK Championship," Marcelo said.

"I'll try my best to win honors for the country in Italy."



MARCELO heads for the payoff line after pulling away from Cebu's Guidicelli.

POC taps 2 US nutrition experts for nat'l athletes

By June Navarro

TWO AMERICAN NUTRITION experts has been tapped by the Philippine Olympic Committee to help boost the nutritional requirements of the national team.

POC president Jose "Peping" Cojuangco Jr. yesterday said sports nutritionist Brian Shamp and Aaron Lloyd Parnell will determine the athletes' food requirements and come up with a diet specifically designed for each athlete in every sport.

Cojuangco said Shamp and Parnell, who worked as dieticians for several collegiate and professional athletes in the United States, would be paid $11,000, exclusive of airfare, billeting and accommodations, during their week-long stay in the Philippines.

The POC head said the nutritionists would discuss the nutritional requirements of the athletes with their coaches, doctors, trainers and therapists, before recommending a nutrition template suitable for each sport and athlete.

"Every athlete has a nutritional requirement for maximum performance in his chosen sport," Cojuangco explained.

HARD TRAINING PHASE

Pacquiao goes 10 rounds

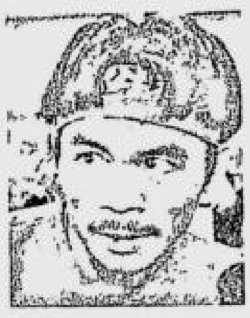
By Salven. L. Lagumbay, Contributor

CEBU CITY—MANNY PACQUIAO BREEZED through his first 10-round sparring session yesterday and looked ready to take on Marco Antonio Barrera when they clash again on Oct. 6 at the Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas.

Pacquiao took on three sparmates at the Rex "Wakee" Salud Gym and looked eager to go for another 10 at the completion of the session supervised by trainers Freddie Roach and Buboy Fernandez.

"This is the hard training phase," said trainer Fernandez, who assisted Roach in the afternoon session. "We are very focused now."

Pacquiao ran in the morning earlier at the Asiatown IT Park, a stone's throw away from the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel where Team Pacquiao is billeted.



PACQUIAO

Pacquiao sparred four rounds against Aaron Melgarejo, three rounds against Arniel Tinampay and another three rounds with Mexican Raymundo Beltran, bringing Pacquiao's total to 64 rounds for this training camp.

No fans were allowed inside the gym, but some select mediamen were given special permits to witness the training.

PBA PRE-SEASON

Chandler lifts visiting Korea five past Welcoat

By June Navarro

MARQUIN CHANDLER CAUGHT FIRE IN the homestretch to power guest team KT&G of Korea over Welcoat, 94-91, in the opener of the Philippine Basketball Association Pre-Season Games last night at The Arena in San Juan.

Chandler, the 2006 Fiesta Cup Best Import while playing for the Purefoods TJ Hotdogs, was a non-factor in the first half but nailed most of his 32 points when the Koreans needed them most.

The Dragons actually had the chance to pull it out but rookie Joe Devance flubbed two free throws with 16 ticks left after he was intentionally fouled by Lee Hyun-ho.

Before his crucial miss, Devance had buried a three-pointer and tossed another inside the paint as the Dragons pulled within 91-92 with 37 seconds remaining.

Devance stole the leather in the ensuing play with the Koreans thinking it was all over but couldn't stretch his luck from the stripe.

Devance led all scorers with 35 points while Jay-Ar Reyes added 18 for the Dragons, who are looking to improve their form this year after a maiden season full of disappointments.

"It was a nice game," said Welcoat coach Leo Austria. "Despite the loss, I'm happy with the way we performed."

The Dragons opened the third quarter with back-to-back baskets courtesy of De Vance for 54-51. The Dragons went on to lead by as many as eight points but entered the final period protecting a slim 66-63 edge.

Powered by Chandler and Robert Cummings, the Koreans set the early pace before Adonis Sta. Maria and Devance gave the Dragons their first taste of the lead, 27-26.

Yang Hee-jong completed a three-point play to knot the count at 46 at halftime.

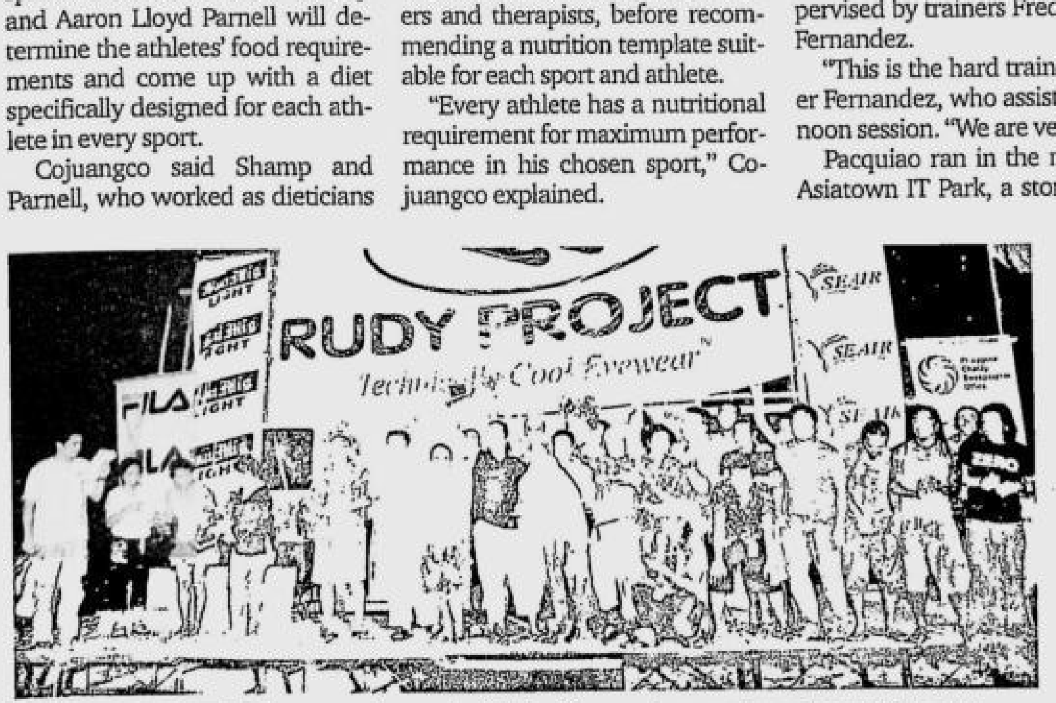
After Welcoat, the Koreans will face Alaska, San Miguel Beer, Red Bull before wrapping up the week against Coca-Cola on Friday.

The scores:

KT&G 94—Chandler 32, Yang 25, Cummings 16, Hwang 7, Eun 5, Kim 4, Yoo 4, Joo 1, Park 0, Lee 0.

WELCOAT 91—Devance 35, Reyes 18, Gelig 6, Lopez 6, Wainwright 6, Dulay 5, Arana 4, Sta. Maria 4, Mente 2.

Quarters: 26-27, 46-all, 63-66, 94-91



READY FOR BATTLE: Team members and officials of Bugsay Boracay dragonboat rowing club.

Bugsay Boracay rowers to Aussie race

THE BUGSAY BORACAY DRAGON Boat Team will pit its skills against some of the world's top rowers in the 8th IDBF World Dragon Boat Championship on Sept. 12-23 at the Sydney International Regatta Center in Penrith, Australia.

The six-year-old, 25-man club, the leading dragonboat team on Boracay Island, was invited by the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation to compete in the prestigious biennial races.

Bugsay Boracay has been a consistent winner in competitions held off the island since its inception in 2001.

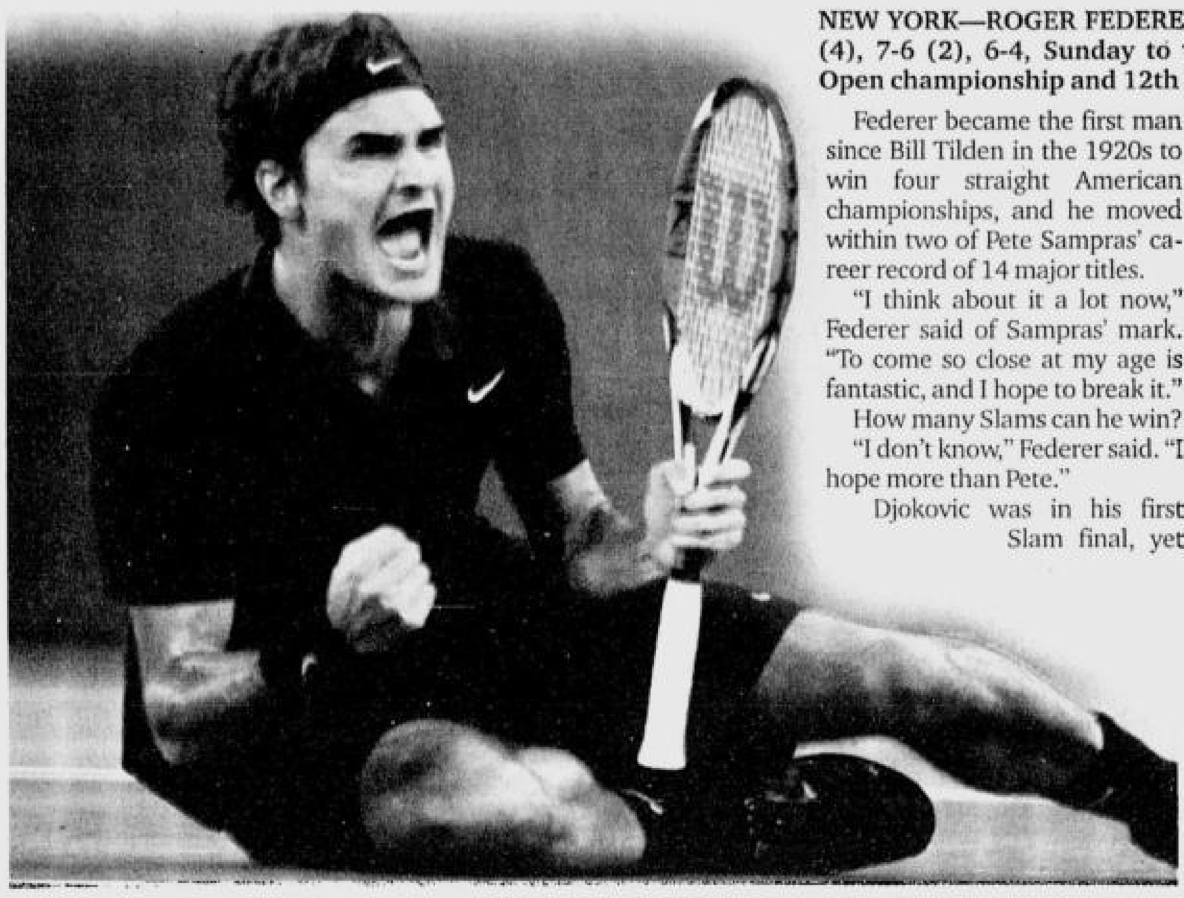
In 2007, the Boracay rowers emerged overall winners in the 1st Rudy Project International Dragon Boat Festival organized by the Boracay Island Paddlers Association.

Bugsay's dominating performance in the Boracay race caught the attention of the Philippine Dragon Boat Federation, which invited the group to compete in the 2000-meter Mixed Premier Racing Division of the World Championships.

Prior to the world championship, the team also brought home medals from international competitions such as the Hong Kong International Dragon Boat races and the Stanley (Hong Kong) Dragon Boat event.

Next year, Bugsay Boracay plans to join more international races, including the Macau International Dragon Boat Races, the World Club Crew Championships in Penang and the Sava Sprints in Singapore.

Federer extends US Open reign



ROGER Federer exults after subduing Novak Djokovic in the US Open men's final Sunday. AFP

NEW YORK—ROGER FEDERER BEAT NOVAK DJOKOVIC, 7-6 (4), 7-6 (2), 6-4, Sunday to win his fourth consecutive US Open championship and 12th Grand Slam title overall.

Federer became the first man since Bill Tilden in the 1920s to win four straight American championships, and he moved within two of Pete Sampras' career record of 14 major titles.

"I think about it a lot now," Federer said of Sampras' mark. "To come so close at my age is fantastic, and I hope to break it."

How many Slams can he win?

"I don't know," Federer said. "I hope more than Pete."

Djokovic was in his first Slam final, yet he led 6-5 in each of the opening two sets. In the first, the 20-year-old Serb held five set points. In the second, he held two.

"My next book is going to be called, 'Seven Set Points,'" Djokovic said, flashing the sense of humor he displayed while doing on-court impersonations of other players after his quarterfinal victory.

The best

On a more serious note, the No. 3-seeded Djokovic said of Federer: "Once again, he showed he's the best."

In Djokovic, Federer was facing the only man to beat him over the past three months, but that was in early August at Montreal, not early September at New York, and in a Grand Slam tuneup, not the real deal.

So, not just talented with a racket but prescient, too, Federer pretty much predicted what would transpire. Shortly before walking out for Sunday's match, he said knowingly, "It'll be interesting to see how he handles the final."

Sure was.

Another shot

Afterward, Federer spoke about having enjoyed getting another shot at Djokovic.

"New guys challenging me—this is my biggest motivation out there," Federer said. "Seeing them challenging me, and then beating them in the finals."

Federer was dressed for an evening on the town—all in black, from headwrap and wristband to socks and shoes, from shirt to shorts with tuxedo-like satin stripes down the sides—and he finished things under the lights by breaking Djokovic in the last game with the help of a no-look, over-the-shoulder volley winner.

Federer was hardly dominant, and when he double-faulted, then sprayed two forehands long, Djokovic had the first break of the match, going up 6-5. Perhaps thinking they'd be witnesses to an upset, many in the crowd got on their feet, clapping and screaming.

So Djokovic served for the first set and raced out to a 40-love edge.

Forehand winner

But Federer hit a cross-court forehand winner that caught a line, and Djokovic missed two backhands. Then came a fourth set point, but Djokovic sent a forehand long.

Then a fifth, but Federer smacked a forehand return that landed right on the baseline and Djokovic's stab backhand went long.

After Djokovic missed yet another backhand to give Federer his first break point of the match, the Serb double-faulted.

That sent the set to a tiebreaker. Of Federer's seven points, two were courtesy of double-faults and two were from backhand errors by Djokovic. *AP*

Sharapova, De Niro rooted for Djokovic

NEW YORK—RUSSIAN TENNIS heartthrob Maria Sharapova and actor Robert De Niro added celebrity status and romantic gossip to the supporters' section for Serbia's Novak Djokovic in Sunday's US Open final.

But don't start making love-40 links just yet between the Russian beauty and 20-year-old Djokovic, who lost his first Grand Slam final appearance to Swiss world number one Roger Federer, 7-6 (7/4), 7-6 (7/2), 6-4.

"Let's not go too much with Maria," Djokovic said. "It's just a friendship we have."

Djokovic, known for his joking impersonations of Sharapova and other tennis players, bumped into Sharapova during a Fashion Week event ongoing in New York at the same time as the year's last Grand Slam tennis tournament.

Djokovic, who has a girl friend, struck up a friendship with Sharapova this week and invited her to join his parents in their seating section.

"It was nice for her to come and support me. As well as Robert," Djokovic said. "It's an amazing feeling to see such successful people in my box supporting me, playing with me I can say, living every emotional moment. It's great."

Asked what Sharapova thought of his impersonation, complete with exaggerated moves like smoothing hair, Djokovic joked, "She said she's going to kill me. *AP*

South Africa trips Samoa in rugby WC

BORDEAUX, FRANCE—SOUTH AFRICA ISsued a sharp reminder that it is a real contender for the World Cup with a dual display of power and agility in its 59-7 thrashing of Samoa on Sunday.

The Springboks stood toe to toe with the Pacific Islanders in a brutal Pool A clash in Paris but eventually pulled clear with the help of four tries for flying wing Bryan Habana.

Their display, following the heavy-duty victories of New Zealand and Australia on Saturday, contrasted markedly with the northern hemisphere contenders who all struggled to subdue lowly rated opponents.

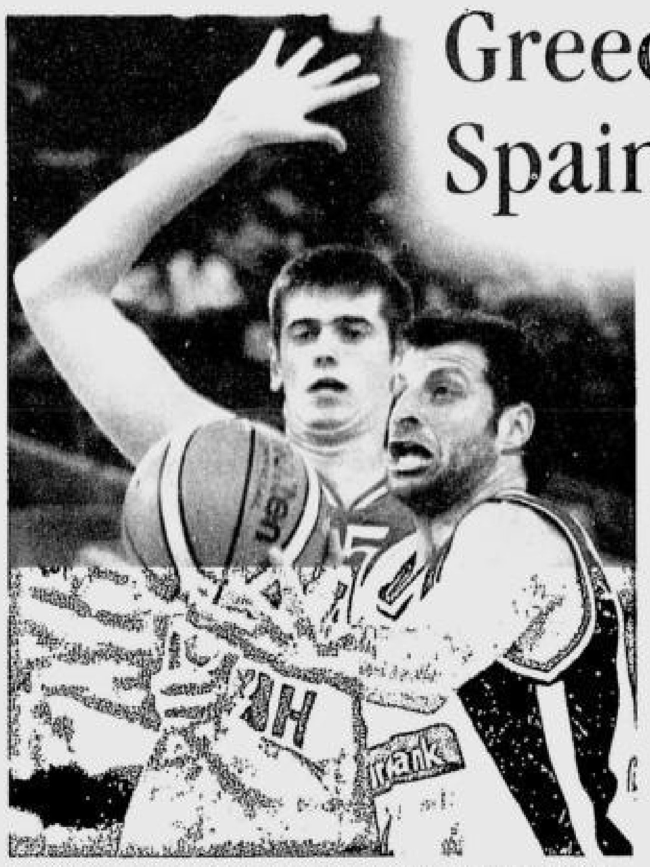
Wales trailed Canada, 17-9, early in the second half of their Pool B encounter in Nantes but the introduction of old hands Stephen Jones and captain Gareth Thomas inspired it to run in 33 unanswered points to prevail, 42-17.

Jones, in his first appearance for four months, helped spark a five-try blitz in 15 minutes, including two for winger Shane Williams, that will have put the Welsh in better heart for next week's clash with Australia in Cardiff.

Ireland also made heavy weather of beating Namibia, leaking two late tries in an unimpressive 32-17 Pool D victory in Bordeaux.

The west Africans lost, 64-7, to Ireland four years ago and also went down 142-0 to Australia but were far more competitive this time and were able to celebrate well-made scores by Jacques Nieuwenhuis and Piet van Zyl after the break.

Scotland scored four tries in each half for a slightly ragged 56-10 success over debutants Portugal in St Etienne where Portuguese winger Pedro Carvalho had the honor of scoring his country's first World Cup points when he grabbed a try after 30 minutes. *Reuters*



GREECE'S Theodoros Papaloukas drives past Croatia's Stanko Barac. REUTERS

Greece boosts drive; Spain enters q'finals

MADRID, SPAIN—VASsilis Spanoulis hit a 3-pointer in the final second Sunday to give Greece an 81-78 victory over Croatia and move it closer to a quarterfinal berth at the European Basketball Championship.

Jose Calderon scored 17 to lift Spain past Russia, 81-69, and into the quarterfinals with the 14-time champion, and Joao Gomes scored 23 points and pulled down 11 rebounds to help Portugal past Israel, 94-85.

Spain and Russia top Group E with seven points, while Greece and Croatia have six each. Israel and Portugal have five apiece.

Defending champion Greece next plays Portugal, with the winner advancing to the last eight.

Croatia can also guarantee its place in the knockout stage with a win over Russia, while Israel will know before its match against world champion Spain if it's still in the running.

Marko Popovic sank two free throws with seven seconds left to pull Croatia into a 78-78 tie with Greece, but Spanoulis dribbled the length of the court, shook off his marker then converted a wide open shot from way behind the 3-point line.

"It was in, I was sure that it was— it was a good shot," Spanoulis said. *AP*

Alonso tops Italian Grand Prix

MONZA, ITALY—MCLAREN MAY be facing problems away from racing in the Ferrari spy scandal.

But it's a different story on the track.

Fernando Alonso led teammate Lewis Hamilton for McLaren's fourth 1-2 of the season at the Italian Grand Prix on Sunday—four days before a hearing in front of the World Motor Sport Council which could result in a two-year ban for the team from Formula One.

"This is special even if there is a problem surrounding the team," said Alonso, who celebrated his 19th grand prix victory and the first at Monza.

Hamilton agreed.

"It just goes to show that nothing can bring us down," Hamilton said. "We're unstoppable."

FERNANDO Alonso

McLaren and Ferrari are embroiled in a bitter dispute over alleged espionage and attempted sabotage, after technical data about the Italian team's cars turned up in the possession of McLaren's chief designer.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen could only land third, over 27 seconds behind Alonso.

"We were keen to win in front of our fans but we did not manage it," Raikkonen said.

Having avoided sanctions in July due to lack of proof, McLaren now faces a second hearing before the WMSC on Sept. 13. *AP*

ASAFA Powell: World's fastest man

Powell rips 100m mark

ROME—JAMAICAN ASAFA POWELL SET A new men's world 100m record of 9.74sec at the IAAF Grand Prix at Rieti, Italy, on Sunday weekend and then stated he can get faster.

Far from resting on his laurels by his performance in Italy when he beat his old mark of 9.77 set in Athens in June 2005, Powell said he is capable of running significantly quicker.

Beaten into third place by American Tyson Gay at the world championships in Osaka last month, Powell's performance in Italy has put him back into center stage.

"In Osaka, I was too tense," Powell said. "I thought too much about my race and the time I was hoping to achieve. On the other hand I was very relaxed in coming here (Rieti). That means I could run 9.68."

The 24-year-old Powell had predicted in Stockholm early August that he felt he was capable of beating the world record this year.

When asked about his physical limits, he had said at the time they were around "9.74 or 9.73, even below 9.70."

Powell dominated the race ahead of Norway's Saidy Ndure Jaysuma (10.07) and 2003 world champion Kim Collins (10.14).

Powell set his world-record 9.77 in 2005 and equaled it twice last season on the way to being named male athlete of the year. *AFP*

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Markets slump on US recession fears

Series of Fed rate cuts expected to ease global jitters

IN THIS ISSUE

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By Doris C. Dumlao

THE PESO AND LOCAL STOCKS TOOK A FRESH HIT yesterday along with regional financial markets after dismal US jobs data fueled fears of a recession in the world's biggest economy.

But the US Federal Reserve Board is widely expected to slash its benchmark rates next week, thus offering some breather to global financial and equities markets.

Last Friday's report of an unexpected fall in US nonfarm payrolls made a quarter-point Fed rate cut to half a percentage point a done deal on Sept. 18, with at least one more cut to follow, according to the London-based economics unit of American Express Bank.

"Volatility will stay high, but lower Fed rates should allow stock markets to revive in coming months," Amex said, expecting the rate cut next week to be followed by at least one more reduction given the worsening credit crunch caused by problems in the US housing sector.

Local share prices closed 1.6-percent lower yesterday, with analysts saying that domestic political concerns, with the Sandiganbayan set to hand down a verdict tomorrow on corruption charges against deposed leader Joseph Estrada, also weighed down on sentiment.

The composite index ended lower by 51.89 points at 3,281.08. There were 98 decliners and 16 advancers, while 32 stocks were unchanged. A total of 2.6 billion shares worth P3.4 billion changed hands.

Asian stocks in general fell more than 1 percent yesterday, with exporters hit hard as the dollar slumped to a 15-year low against a basket of major currencies on concerns the US economy may be heading into a recession.

MARKETS / B4

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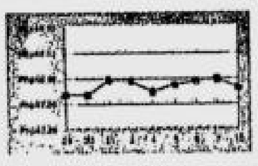

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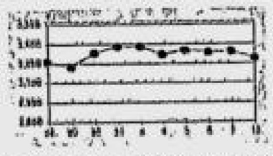
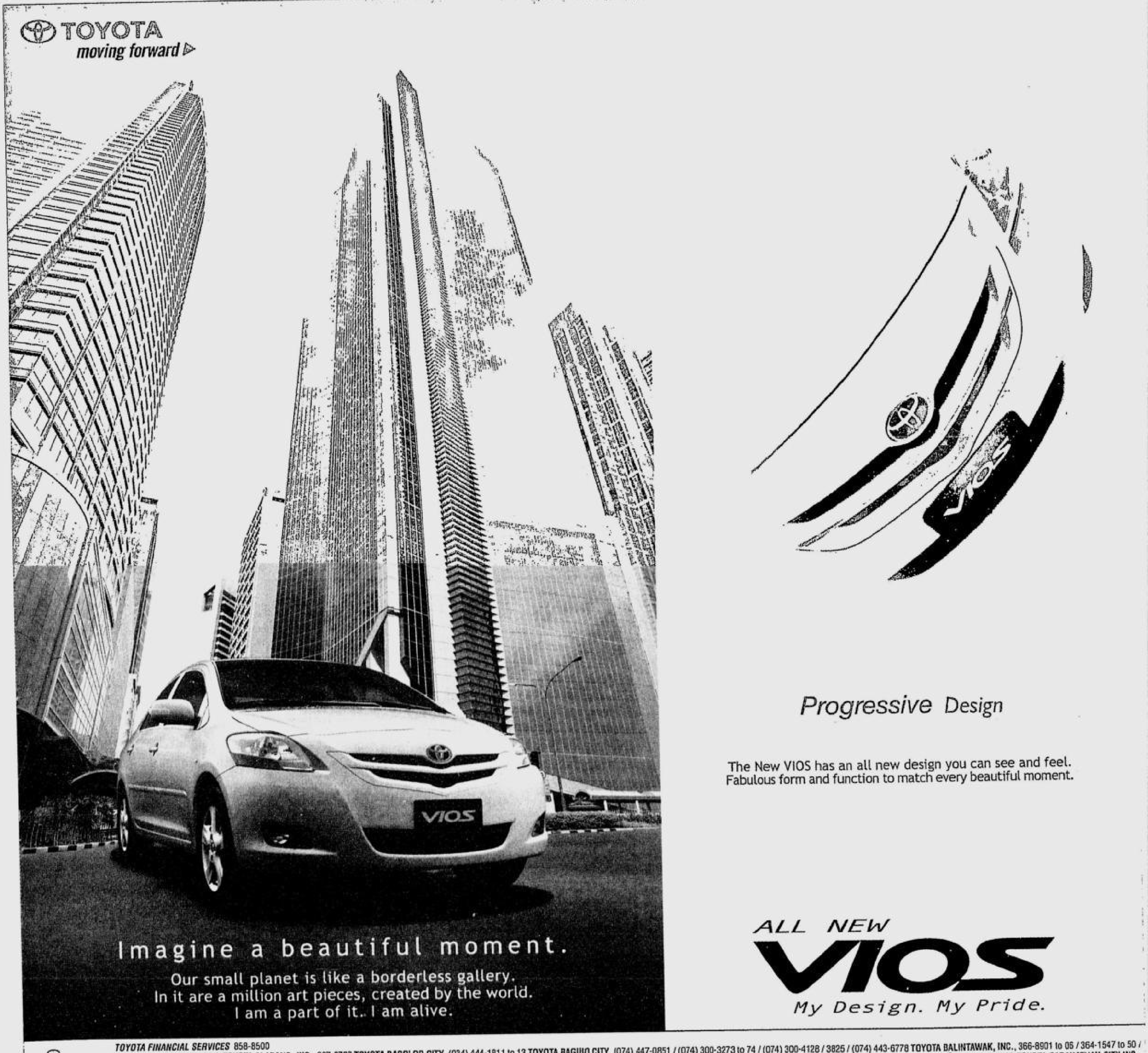
As of 5 p.m., Sept. 10, 2007

STOCK MARKET

AUGUST SEPTEMBER



(See stock market report on Page B4)



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Mother of all scams

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

WATCH OUT!

Word is out that the Supreme Court en banc will soon come out with another ruling on the 50-year old controversy over the 1,600-hectare Maysilo estate.

In business, pundits are saying that with the booming real estate sector nowadays, everybody in the sector is on edge because of the cases—three cases all in all, actually.

Also monitoring the cases are some government offices and universities, not to mention large commercial outfits such as malls and markets.

Down here in my barangay, however, our hearts go out to the thousands upon thousands of families residing in Caloocan, Malabon, Valenzuela and Quezon City.

They, too, will likely be affected by the forthcoming Supreme Court ruling.

Sure, those three cases actually involve just 300 hectares of the Maysilo estate's 1,600 hectares.

And, okay, those 300 hectares are already much larger than the entire Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

Still, it is highly possible that the Supreme Court ruling on the 300-hectare case will spill over to the rest of the Maysilo estate straddling those four cities.

The estate covers some 450 hectares of government land, part of the NLex, huge commercial areas, three big universities and some 64 barangays in Caloocan City alone.

Look, the area is roughly three times the size of the entire city of San Juan—with or without the ousted President Joseph Estrada.

No wonder, the government and the business sector see a certain threat from those eases. It's a potentially explosive case. People can be driven out of their homes and offices. You know—lots of homeless!

The brouhaha really started in the 1960s, when a lawyer named Jose Dimson claimed in court to have the mother title to the entire Maysilo estate.

He declared ownership over 25 percent of the estate, telling the courts that the supposed owners used the lot as "payment" to him for "legal services." Over the years, a corporation called CLT Realty somehow got to assume the claim of Dimson.

Thus CLT Realty, as claimant to those 300 hectares, became party to those three cases.

Just who are the people behind CLT Realty may be an interesting topic for another piece one of these days.

Anyway, on the other side of those cases against CLT Realty are the Manotok group (in one case), the Araneta Institute of Agriculture (in another) and the Sto. Niño Kapitbahayan Association (in yet another).

Because of those 450 hectares of government land in the Maysilo estate, the Republic of the Philippines is an "intervenor."

***

In the 1960s, anyway, the court in Pasig (under Judge Cecilia Muñoz Palma) recognized the conveyance of that particular 25 percent of the Maysilo estate to Dimson.

Still, the court rejected his position that the area should be awarded to him.

Some 10 years later, Dimson went to another venue, this time in Caloocan—for the execution of the conveyance of that 25 percent.

The Caloocan court awarded Dimson some 50 hectares. This is why Dimson got a title to a 50-hectare property.

Unfortunately, the same property already had an owner, the Araneta Institute of Agriculture, which became the Araneta University, which in turn is now part of the De La Salle education system.

And then in another court—in Rizal, this time—Dimson got an award for "whatever remains" of the certain lots in the Maysilo estate.

One of those lots (Lot 26) happened to be owned by the Manotok group.

The same lot eventually found its way into the hands of CLT Realty, which is the company in those cases before the Supreme Court.

In 1993, both the Araneta school and the Manotok group got court orders to vacate their properties.

And what, pray tell, was the basis for the orders?

Well it seems that Dimson presented a title dated April 19, 1917.

By some stroke of luck, or something, that date was only a few days earlier than the title held by both Araneta and Manotok—which was May 3, 1917.

Now Dimson—and thus CLT Realty—also won the case before the Court of Appeals.

Upon review, the Supreme Court upheld the CA, saying it was bound to adopt the findings of the lower courts since it was not a "trier" of facts.

Even, boss, if there was something blatantly wrong with the supposed "facts" established in the lower courts?

In recent years, the Senate and the Department of Justice discovered something awfully wrong with the mother title presented by Dimson—i.e., the CLT Realty's side.

And that is, well, the title was nothing but a fake! Yes, the one dated April 19, 1917!

So much so that the late Senator Marcelo Fernan once called the whole thing the "mother of all land scams."

Even the Supreme Court recently ruled as much, when it affirmed the dismissal of the former registrar of deeds of Caloocan City, a certain Yolanda Alfonso.

In effect, the former registrar allowed the change in the registration date of the mother title of the "Maysilo" estate, thus making it appear that there were actually two valid titles.

The Supreme Court upheld the Land Registration Authority in declaring the Dimson-inspired title as a "fabrication."

There—that's the mother title for the claim of the Dimson-CLT Realty group. The Supreme Court already said it was ... well, fake!

Last year, the Supreme Court en banc heard the oral arguments of both sides of the cases over those 300 hectares.

In that hearing, the solicitor general himself, Eduardo Nachura, produced the original title, registered with the LRA, dated May 3, 1917 (and not April 19, 1917).

That's the multibillion-peso question now facing the Supreme Court.

Gov't sets sale of Palinpinon, Panay plants

By Abigail L. Ho

THE POWER SECTOR ASSETS and Liabilities Management Corp. has opened the bidding for the 192.5-megawatt (MW) Palinpinon geothermal facility and the 146.5-MW Panay diesel-fired power plant, which will be sold as a package in December.

In an invitation to bid published over the weekend, PSALM privatization, bids and awards committee chair and Energy Secretary Angelo Reyes said interested bidders have until 5 p.m. on Sept. 17 to submit their letters of interest (LOI).

To secure the bidding package for the plants, potential bidders should enter into a confidentiality agreement with PSALM as well as pay a nonrefundable fee of $2,000. The deadline for these requirements has been set for Sept. 19, with the bidding package to be made available from Sept. 17 to 26.

"Interested parties that submit the LOI must be the party that will participate in the privatization process, submit a bid and enter into the pertinent agreements," Reyes said.

"Once an interested party submits the confidentiality agreement and undertaking and pays the participation fee, such interested party may no longer be substituted in the privatization process, except through a consortium in accordance with the terms and conditions of the bidding procedures," he added.

PSALM would allow interested bidders to conduct due diligence audit of the plants from Sept. 17 to Dec. 3.

The pre-bid conference will be held on Sept. 28, with the deadline for the submission of bids set for Dec. 5.

Bidders will be required to post a bid security equivalent to $8 million in the form of an irrevocable letter of credit.

"The bid security of the winning bidder shall be substituted by a performance security to guaranty prompt, faithful and complete performance of its obligations under the transaction," Reyes said.

The 685-MW Tiwi-Makban geothermal power complex will likewise be placed on the auction block within the year.

PSALM is currently preparing for the auction of the 600-MW Calaca coal-fired power plant in October, the 175-MW Ambuklao-Binga hydropower plant package in November and the 25-year National Transmission Corp. concession in December.

From an 11-percent privatization level in 2006, PSALM aims to increase to 50 percent by year's end.

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Mango exports seen hitting $48M in '07

By Amy R. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE expects mango exports to hit $48 million this year, up from last year's $44.3 million.

Agriculture Secretary Arthur C. Yap said the DA was opening up more markets for mangoes through trade missions in major markets like China and Japan and emerging markets in Europe and Asia.

A recent DA-led selling mission in Hong Kong, for instance, yielded over P711 million in booked and negotiated sales of Philippine fresh and processed agricultural products, including bananas, pineapples and mangoes.

These missions are expected to help meet the DA's goal of increasing mango exports by 10 percent a year.

Last year, the country exported 39,270 metric tons of mangoes, worth $44.3 million. The bulk of the exports went to Hong Kong, Japan and China.

Exports to these countries helped make up for the deep cut in exports to the United States, from 157.8 metric tons in 2005 to just 56.3 metric tons last year.

Yap had said, however, that the country's mango exports to the US would increase to 250 metric tons after the US government allowed the entry of Philippine mangoes produced anywhere except Palawan.

To meet the projected increase in exports, the DA aims to increase mango production to 984,135 metric tons in 2007 from last year's 918,870 metric tons.

A substantial increase in production is seen in the Ilocos region and Cagayan Valley, due mainly to good weather and DA training and production inputs, Yap noted.

Production hikes are also expected in Central Luzon, Calabarzon, Mimaropa, Bicol, Western Visayas, Central Visayas, Zamboanga Peninsula, Central Mindanao and Caraga.

He said there was still a need to fine tune training programs to increase the production of export-quality mangoes.

For example, the proper bagging of mangoes is not yet widely practiced in Luzon, which accounts for 66 percent of the country's mango supply.

Pag-IBIG Fund
Zamboanga Branch

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR PARTITIONS AND FURNITURE AT PAG-IBIG FUND ZAMBOANGA BRANCH OFFICE

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Zamboanga Branch Office, through its Bids and Awards Committee-Goods & Services intends to apply the sum of Four Million Two Hundred Thirty Six Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Eight (P 4,236,888.00) being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION OF MODULAR PARTITIONS AND FURNITURE AT PAG-IBIG FUND ZAMBOANGA BRANCH OFFICE. Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid Opening.

The Pag-IBIG Fund Zamboanga Branch now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Supply, Delivery and Installation of Modular Partitions and Furniture at Pag-IBIG Fund Zamboanga Branch Office. Delivery of the goods is required within sixty (60) calendar days from receipt of Notice of Award.

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-discretionary pass/fail criteria as specified in the Implementing Rules and Regulations Part A (IRR-A) of Republic Act 9184 (R.A.9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act", and is restricted to Filipino citizen/s sole proprietorships, organizations with at least sixty percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to citizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidders who pass the eligibility check will be opened. The process for the eligibility check is described in Section III of the Bidding Documents, ITB. The bidder with the Lowest Calculated Bid (LCB) shall advance to the post-qualification stage in order to finally determine responsiveness of the bid to technical and financial requirements of the project. The contract shall then be awarded to the Lowest Calculated and Responsive Bidder (LCRB) who was determined as such during post-qualification procedure.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from Pag-IBIG Fund Zamboanga Branch Office and inspect the Bidding Documents at the Administrative Division on September 11, 2007 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, Monday through Friday.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee in the amount of Four Thousand Pesos (P 4,000.00) in the form of CASH. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Zamboanga Branch Office will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on September 24, 2007 at 9:00 AM at the Conference Room at the Office of the Department Manager.

Bids and eligibility requirements must be delivered to the Conference Room of the Office of the Department Manger on or before 9:00 AM of October 8, 2007. All Bids must be accompanied by a Bid security in the form indicated in the Terms of Reference. Late Bids shall not be accepted.

Bid opening shall be on October 8, 2007 at the Conference Room, at the Office of the Department Manager, at 9:00 AM. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidders' representatives who choose to attend.

The Pag-IBIG Fund, Zamboanga Branch Office reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Pag-IBIG Fund
Zamboanga City Branch
Pag-IBIG Bldg.
San Jose Rd.
Zamboanga City
Tel Nos. (062) 9901432
Email address: **hdmfzadm@yahoo.com**
Fax No.: (062) 991-2903

(Sgd.) **IBRAHIM N. LAJARATO**
BAC Chairman

(PDI—September 11, 2007)

Power plant to rise in Iloilo

By David Israel Sinay
Inquirer Visayas

ILOILO CITY—GLOBAL BUSINESS POWER Corp. plans to build a 100-megawatt coal-fired power plant here to address the metropolis' unreliable power supply.

GBPC owns Panay Power Corporation (PPC), an independent power producer supplying the power requirements of Panay Electric Company, the sole power distributor in Iloilo City.

"We are on the technical planning stage," said GBPC compliance and commercial officer Miren Facultad.

Facultad said Asia Pacific Energy Corp., which has a plant in Pampanga, will be the technical partner in the Panay expansion.

GBPC plans to put up the coal-fired power plant at the PPC compound in Barangay Ingore, La Paz district, Iloilo City.

Apec, on the other hand, operates a 50-MW coal-fired co-generation power plant at the 6.3-hectare property of the Tipco Estate Corporation Special Economic Zone in Pampanga.

If things go as planned, Facultad said the construction of the estimated $150-million facility would start in the middle of 2008 and should end by 2010.

Unlike the Apec facility that was built on land, the proposed plant in Iloilo City will be installed near the sea so that the coal could be brought directly to the plant through conveyors.

Mayor Jerry Treñas said the surge in economic and infrastructure developments in the city had increased the demand for power, thus requiring a new power plant.

Treñas and Cong. Raul Gonzalez Jr. said they favored the establishment of the power plant as long as it does not pose any harm to the people and the environment.

Exporters seek more effective measures

By Ronnel W. Domingo

MEMBERS OF THE PHILIPPINE Exporters Confederation are seeking more effective government measures to ensure their survival in the face of increasing cutthroat competition.

The exporters said that Administrative Order No. 194, which seeks to "institutionaliz[e] a strategy to upgrade exports in the face of a strong peso," contained nothing new.

Most of the provisions listed under AO 194 are "already being done," said Sergio Ortiz-Luis Jr., Philexport president.

When asked what the exporters are seeking, Ortiz-Luis said getting a reprieve from high electricity costs was one of their most pressing concerns.

Also, he said that Philexport has asking traders to refrain from selling their dollars.

"We have strong basis to say that the strong peso is also a result of massive dollar unloading," he said. "Another short-term remedy is for exporters to be protected by hedging facilities."

Still, Ortiz-Luis Jr. said the exporters welcomed AO 194 for it provided windows that would allow government-owned and -controlled corporations to help promote the export sector.

Last Friday, President Macapagal-Arroyo said the government would not intervene to arrest the sharp rise of the peso against the US dollar—something exporters have been demanding to mitigate the negative effects of the strong peso.

Instead, Ms Arroyo issued AO 194 which, among other things, directed GOCCs to support the export upgrading program.

Gov't rejects all bids for 364-day T-bills

Yield of RP bonds seen up on Estrada worries

By Michelle V. Remo

FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A row, the government rejected all bids for the 364-day Treasury bills, preventing what finance officials consider an absurd increase in the interest rate.

"The bid prices were unreasonable," said Roberto Tan, Finance undersecretary and acting national treasurer. "As we saw, there appeared to be no interest in the one-year government securities."

Had the Bureau of the Treasury's auction committee accepted bids for the one-year debt instruments, their rate could have reached as much as 6.058 percent, higher by 45.1 basis points from the last recorded rate of 5.607 percent on Aug. 13.

There were bids for the 364-day bills, but Tan said these were considered throwaway because of the high interest rates being sought by banks. The bid amount reached P3.365 billion, lower than the government's debt offering of P3.5 billion.

From the 91-day Treasury bills, the government generated P1 billion, observing its original debt offering. Tenders reached P2.030 billion.

The three-month government securities fetched 3.769 percent, up 3.8 basis points from the previously recorded 3.731 percent.

The rate for the 182-day bills settled at 4.842 percent, rising by 3.7 basis points from 4.805 percent. The six-month government securities appeared to be the most attractive, as bids reached P4.855 billion, higher than the government's debt offering of only P1.5 billion, which the auction committee accepted.

Tan said the move to reject all bids for the one-year bills would not threaten the government's cash flow, saying it has enough liquidity at the moment.

Also, yields on Philippine debt issued abroad are expected to rise this week due to fresh worries over a possible downturn in the United States and caution ahead of a ruling on former President Joseph Estrada's plunder case.

Debt traders said the market had become defensive after data on Friday showed an unexpected drop in US employment, reviving concern over the health of one of the country's top trading partners.

"That piece of bad news will also affect the Philippines and the Asia market," said a dealer from a local bank.

GOV'T REJECTS / B5

H1 earnings of listed firms up 41.4%

By Elizabeth Sanchez-Lacson

TOTAL EARNINGS OF LISTED companies jumped 41.4 percent to P148.75 billion in the first half of the year from P105.2 billion a year ago, according to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

PSE president Francis Lim said that the combined gross revenues of listed companies also went up by more than 15 percent to P1.18 trillion during the first half of the year from P1.02 trillion a year earlier.

Data from the PSE was based on unaudited financial statements of 229 listed companies that were received by the PSE as of Sept. 6. These include firms classified under the small- and medium-sized enterprise board.

All six key industry groups—mining and oil, property, holding firms, industrial, financial and services—as well as the SME board, enjoyed double-digit hikes in their first-half net earnings and gross revenues.

Firms on the SME group recorded the best growth in combined net earnings at 584 percent to P54.58 million during the first half of the year from P7.98 million in the same period last year.

Combined net earnings of firms belonging to the mining and oil sector surged 86 percent to P3.62 billion in the first half from last year's P1.94 billion.

Firms from the property sector grew by 82.9 percent; the holding firms sector by 54.4 percent; the industrial sector by 48.8 percent; the financial sector by 33 percent; and the services sector by 13.6 percent.

The holding firms accounted for the biggest share of the income pie at P38.91 billion, while the industrial sector came in second at P35.27 billion. It was followed by the services sector at P31.79 billion, the financial sector at P24.28 billion, and the property sector at P14.82 billion.

Combined earnings of companies that make up the 29-company blue chip PSEi went up by 28.7 percent to P98.17 billion from P76.28 billion the previous year.

During the first half, the PSEi, which is the stock market's main barometer of price movements, rose 22.7 percent from its level at the end of 2006. Year-to-date growth of the PSEi stood at 11.7 percent as of last Friday.

PSBank
Peso TIME DEPOSIT

Deposit Amount	Interest Rates	
In Pesos	Less than 1 Year	1 Year
100,000 - 499,999	3.50	3.50
500,000 - 999,999	3.75	3.75
1.0MM - 4.99MM	4.50	4.50
5.0MM - 9.99MM	4.75	4.75
10.0MM and up	5.00	5.00

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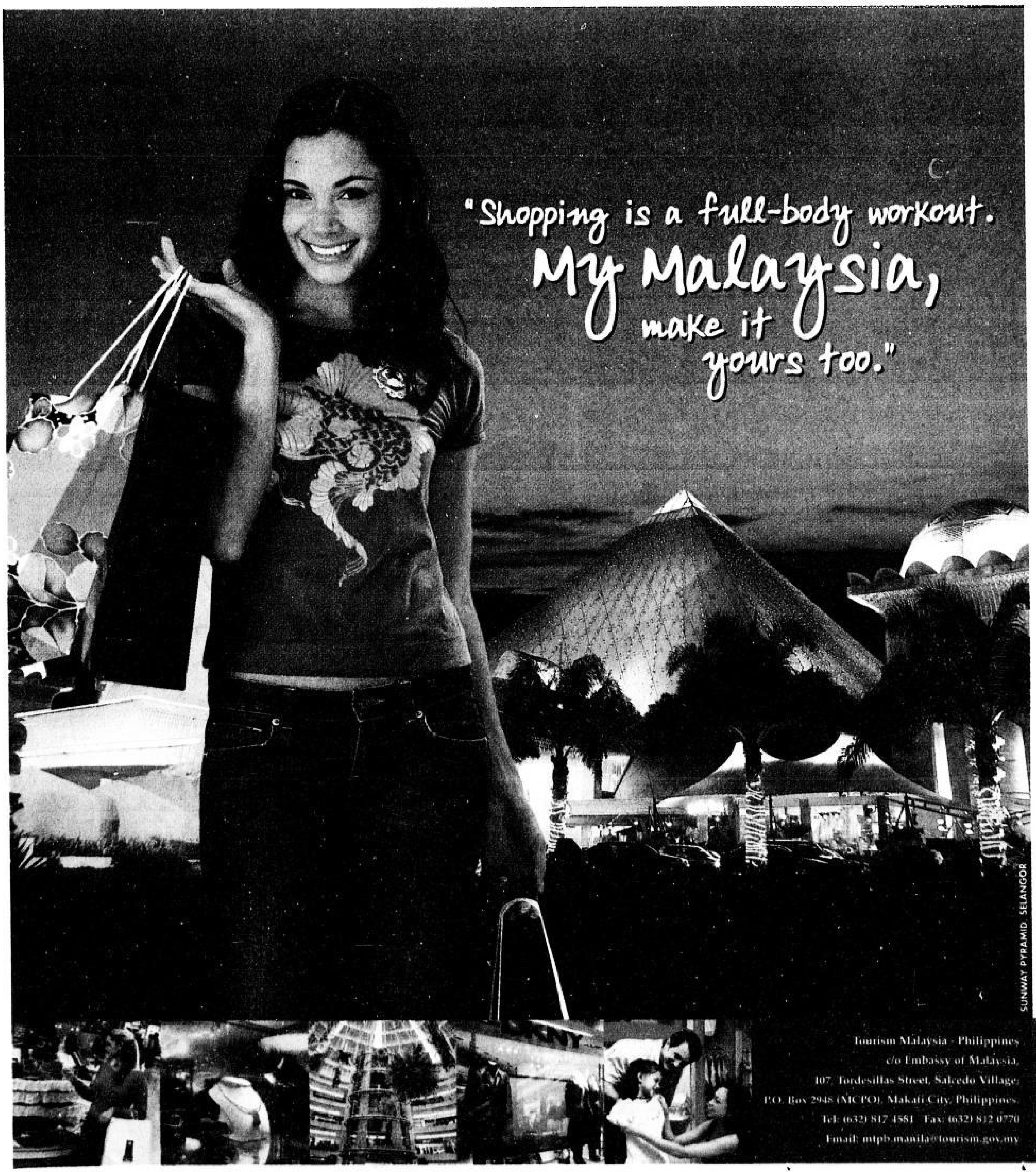
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Bernanke's dilemma

MR. BEARBULL

Ron Nathan

I AM WRITING THIS ARTICLE after just being discharged from jail. It was a series of unfortunate events that normally happen only in the movies. I attended a mining conference and at the entrance was a beautiful girl with a magnificent bust. Pinned to her left breast was a notice, PRESS, so I did, and before I knew what was happening, I had been charged with indecent behavior. I pleaded that it was an involuntary reaction, compounded by age, but they refused to release me on bail because I am an alien and might return to my home planet by flying saucer. Anyway, I was released because the evidence wouldn't stand up in court.

Apple had tremendous success with its i-Phone and is shortly to launch its i-Boob. This is embedded in a woman's breasts so that she can wear it in bed and it plays all kinds of music, day and night. Just how it is switched on and off or how you change stations, I leave to your imagination. The product was produced at the request of Women's Lib because they complained that men stared at their boobs but never listened to them. As you can see, I keep abreast of the news.

Apple's next product will be the i-Ball. As this is ambiguous, I am not sure where they will implant it but I am not volunteering. It will not be available for at least six months, as it has to undergo a series of testes.

I sent my monthly urine sample to the hospital and was informed that I was four months pregnant and had mad cow disease. I replied that they must have mixed it up with udders.

A woman was admitted to the emergency ward in obvious distress. Her skin had a yellow tinge and she was unable to communicate what was wrong. The doctors agreed she had jaundice so they did a biopsy on her kidneys, which is quite painful. To their surprise, the results came back normal. They decided she had eaten too many carrots, which can produce a similar effect, so they tested for beta-carotene but this too was normal. Totally bewildered, they removed her spleen for reasons I cannot expleen, but there was nothing wrong with it. They ran blood tests, urine tests, ultrasound, an MRI scan but everything was fine. After a week, they discovered that she was Japanese and had lost her car keys.

* * *

I am sick of writing about subprime mortgages and I feel sure you are equally sick of reading about them so I resolved to spend more space on jokes and write about other topics. However, on Friday, economists were jolted out of their seats by the job-creation figures. They were expected to be between 100,000 and 110,000, similar to the previous month's figure of 92,000, since revised downwards to 58,000. They were shocked to hear that for the first time in four years, the number of jobs created was negative 4,000. The DOW plunged 250 points and the Nasdaq 50 points. It was totally unexpected and changes everything.

The day before, Greenspan commented that the figures bore a striking resemblance to 1987 and 1998 when markets crashed. "The behavior we are observing in the last seven weeks is identical in many respects to what we saw in 1998 and what we saw in the stock market crash of 1987." In 1998, a hedge fund, LONG TERM CAPITAL MANAGEMENT, controlled $100 billion of assets but collapsed in the wake of a Russian debt crisis, wreaking havoc in many derivative markets.

ABN-Amro said on Thursday: "The current credit crisis is a serious one but is only the tip of the iceberg. It is probably more serious than the market is pricing in." In Australia, BASIS CAPITAL FUND has sought bankruptcy protection for its second-biggest hedge fund and more such episodes are expected to continue worldwide for months, possibly longer. These funds are coming out of the woodwork and you have so many of them that no one is really sure how much exposure to subprime markets is out there. Investors in the fund will know within two weeks whether there is any hope of any return on their investments." Outside the hedge fund was a man with a placard, "Redemption is nigh."

Often, not too much should be read into any one month's figures, as there might be seasonal factors or hurricanes to account for it. But manufacturing is increasing together with hourly wages at 0.3 percent an hour and wages at 3.9 percent a year. Personal spending rose 1 percent and consumer confidence was up, so this news came as a rude awakening. With COUNTRYWIDE FINANCIAL cutting 20 percent of its labor force in the next three months, it seems likely that the figure might well get worse in the months ahead.

Even if BERNANKE wants to stand his ground and hold interest rates, the political pressure that will be brought to bear upon him will be enormous. The REPUBLICANS are already extremely unpopular with the electorate because of the war in Iraq, which has cost 3,750 American lives and shows no signs of ending satisfactorily. The only hope of President Bush was to state how good the economy was and now it is heading downwards into a possible recession. With his associates resigning because of scandals, exhaustion, family problems and dandruff, he has BIN LADEN with many burdens, and has no chance of his party being reelected. He has been truly BUSHWHACKED.

The housing bubble will soon spread to the UK where property values have risen astronomically and to other European countries. MIZUHO FINANCIAL GROUP, Japan's second-largest homebuilder, predicts a property bubble in Japan where consumer prices have fallen for six straight months. Merrill Lynch has downgraded CITIGROUP, LEHMAN BROTHERS and BEAR STEARNS. I am beginning to believe that the emerging-markets might be safer than the US.

At home, the PHISIX continues to follow Wall Street but daily turnover has dropped by half. The mining sector remains strong on rising metal prices and gold is now $700 an ounce. PX, AT, APX, LC and MA have all been strong and the BERONG mine has signed a five-year contract, renewable for another five years, with an Australian subsidiary of BHP. This is good news for ATLAS, which currently has a roadshow this week in Europe and next month in Singapore, Hong Kong and Beijing. Talks are also in progress with several Chinese end-users for more nickel ore contracts and this remains my core investment together with IPVG.
nathan.ronald@gmail.com

Markets slump on US recession fears

From page B1

"A rate cut by the US Federal Reserve would certainly ease investor concerns and it is increasingly likely that it will happen. But short of that, it is hard to see what the catalyst will be for investors' nerves to be soothed," said Martin Arnold, an equities economist at CommSec in Sydney.

Sentiment was further dented by news that Japan's economy contracted more than expected in the second quarter, bolstering views that the Bank of Japan is unlikely to raise interest rates next week.

Regional currencies were generally weaker as well.

The high-yielding peso fell as far as 46.75 a dollar, down almost 0.5 percent from Friday's close.

The Malaysian ringgit fell to a three-week low of 3.517 a dollar, down 0.5 percent from late Asian trade on Friday.

"The peso is pressured today on the back of poor jobs data from the United States, probably taking its cue from the expected weakness in the equity market," said a Manila trader.

The dollar itself was weak against major currencies, sliding to a 15-year low against a basket of such currencies as the jobs data raised concerns the US economy may be heading into a recession and fueled expectations the Federal Reserve would have to cut interest rates next week.

Data on US payrolls in August also suggested that a credit squeeze stemming from problems in the US subprime mortgage market is beginning to stifle growth in Asia's top export market.

Most analysts believe export-dependent Asia remains vulnerable to a sharp slowdown in the world's largest economy, but the region's huge foreign exchange reserves would shield it from any currency meltdown similar to the 1997-98 crisis.

Republic of the Philippines
City of Cebu
BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Cebu City Government, thru its BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE (BAC), invites all interested manufacturers, suppliers, dealers and/or distributors to apply for eligibility and to submit BIDS for the SUPPLY of various items, as follows:

ITEM NO.	Name of Project	Location	Brief Description	Approved Budget Contract	PR #	Fee of Bid Documents
1	150 boxes Tuberculin syringe G 26x1/2 and 250 boxes Disposable Syringe with Needle 3ml G 23	CHD	for Cebu City Health Department	249,500.00	580-07	.002 of ABC
2	300 pcs. Monobloc Chair w/o armrest and other items	GSO	for use in official functions of the City	160,150.00	776-07	.002 of ABC
3	450 pax Food with Venue	CCWPC	to be used for the conduct of Children's Summit/Congress	384,500.00	741-07	.002 of ABC
4	162 boxes Nifedipine 30mg box of 30's Nifedipine Gits and other items	CHD	for the use in different dental clinics and vans, Field Programs and Services Division, Cebu City	1,341,180.00	767-07	.002 of ABC
5	800 pcs. Blood Transfusion Set and other items	CCMC	for patients treated/admitted in CCMC	1,085,545.00	698-07	.002 of ABC
6	400 M.T. Bitumen Hot Asphalt 60/70, SS1-H and diesel	DEPW	for use in paving/retreading of various city streets	17,838,000.00	742-07	.002 of ABC
7	200 boxes Folic Acid 5mg tab. And 600 boxes Salbutamol 2mg caps.	CHD	for the use in Field Programs Division	309,000.00	752-07	.002 of ABC
8	10 roll electrical wire, duplex AWG #16, 150/roll and other items	DPS	for use in the Installation and Repair of Street Lights, 3rd qtr.	751,590.00	761-07	.002 of ABC

Prospective bidders should have experience in undertaking a similar project within the last 2 years with an amount of at least 50% of the proposed project for bidding. The Eligibility Check/Screening as well as the Preliminary Examination of Bids shall use non-discretionary "pass/fail" criteria. Post-qualification of the lowest calculated bid shall be conducted.

All particulars relative to Eligibility Statement and Screening, Bid Security, Performance Security, Pre-bidding Conferences, Evaluation of Bids, Post-qualification and Award of Contract shall be governed by the pertinent provisions of R.A. 9184 and its implementing Rules and Regulation - A (IRR - A).

The schedule of activities is as follows:

ACTIVITIES	Schedule Items 1-3	Schedule Items 4-8
1. Issuance of Bid Documents	Sept. 10-12, 2007	September 13-24, 2007
2. Pre-Bid Conference	————	September 13, 2007
3. Submission & Opening of Bid Docs	September 13, 2007	September 25, 2007
4. Evaluation of Bid Documents	September 14-19, 2007	September 26-28, 2007
5. Post Evaluation	September 20-26, 2007	October 1-4, 2007
6. Notice of Award	September 27, 2007	October 5, 2007

Bid documents will be available only to eligible bidders upon payment of a non-refundable amount as reflected under "Fee of Bid Documents" above to the Cebu City Treasurer's Office Cashier.

The Cebu City Government assumes no responsibility whatsoever to compensate or indemnify bidders for any expenses incurred in the preparation of the bid.

For more information please contact the BAC Secretariat at telephone numbers 253-7778 and 412-0000, local 805.

These requirements are posted at the GSO Bulletin Board, Post Office, In-front of Cebu City Hall Main Building Bulletin Board, Capitol Building Bulletin Board and Cebu City Website.

The Bids and Awards Committee of the City of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, to waive any defects or formality therein and to accept bids considered complying and most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) FRANCISCO L. FERNANDEZ
Chairman

(PDI–September 11, 2007)

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of September 10, 2007)

52-WKS HIGH	52-WKS LOW	STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
		BANKS					
73	36.5	Banco de Oro-EPCI Inc.	56.5	57	56.5	56.5	206,100
73.5	53	Bank of the Philippine Islands	62	62.5	61.5	62	797,200
935	630	China Banking Corp.	795	800	795	800	4,280
23.5	18.5	Citystate Savings Bank	23	23	23	23	300
0.63	0.36	Export and Industry Bank Inc.	0.39	0.4	0.39	0.4	550,000
75.5	38	Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company	54	54.5	53.5	54.5	2,834,400
65.5	33	Philippine National Bank	46	46	45	45	1,190,900
68	41	Philippine Savings Bank	63	63	63	63	1,000
39.57	14.57	Rizal Commercial Banking Corp.	23.5	23.75	23.25	23.5	3,395,500
66	42.53	Union Bank of the Philippines	57.5	57.5	56	57.5	210,300
		OTHER FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS					
5.6	1.76	ATR Kim Eng Financial Corp	3.85	3.85	3.85	3.85	78,000
2.22	0.6	Bankard Inc.	2.06	2.18	2.04	2.14	6,003,000
16.25	2.65	CitisecOnline.com Inc.	11.5	11.5	10.25	10.75	700,000
42	29	First Metro Investment Corp.	42	42	42	42	5,000
1,790.00	1,555.00	Manulife Financial Corp.	1,740.00	1,740.00	1,740.00	1,740.00	360
5	2.95	Nat'l Reinsurance Corp. of the Phils.	3.2	3.25	3.15	3.2	1,323,000
3.1	1	PCI Leasing and Finance Inc.	1.92	1.92	1.92	1.92	30,000
1,005.00	225	The Philippine Stock Exchange Inc.	770	770	770	770	200
2,265.00	1,945.00	Sun Life Financial Inc	2,240.00	2,240.00	2,240.00	2,240.00	240
1.91	1.3	Vantage Corp	1.48	1.48	1.48	1.48	30,000
		ELECTRICITY, ENERGY, POWER & WATER					
6.2	3.8	Aboitiz Power Corp	5.1	5.1	4.9	5	5,198,000
0.57	0.23	East Asia Power Resources Corp.	0.26	0.27	0.24	0.26	820,000
70	47.5	First Gen Corp.	64	65	63.5	64.5	387,000
92	45.5	First Phil. Holdings Corp.	75	75	74	75	186,400
15	8.8	Manila Water Company Inc.	13.75	13.75	13.5	13.5	2,767,700
105.45	16.36	Manila Electric Company	79	79.5	78	79	865,700
7	4.1	PNOC Energy Development Corp.	6.2	6.2	6	6.1	33,107,000
6.5	3.75	Petron Corp.	5.2	5.3	5	5.1	16,410,000
14.75	6.7	Phoenix Petroleum Philippines Inc.	6.8	7	6.8	7	23,000
1.9	0.95	Trans-Asia Oil & Energy Dev't Corp	1.2	1.22	1.2	1.22	[illegible]
		FOOD, BEVERAGE & TOBACCO					
6.3	2.35	Alaska Milk Corp	5	5.1	5	5.1	1,098,000
2.95	1.86	Alliance Tuna International Inc.	1.98	1.98	1.96	1.96	4,000
28.5	19.5	Ginebra San Miguel Inc	25	25	25	25	3,000
61	33	Jollibee Foods Corp.	53.5	53.5	52.5	52.5	420,000
1.96	0.84	RFM Corp.	1.58	1.6	1.56	1.6	52,000
80	59	San Miguel Corp. A	62	62	61.5	61.5	13,400
88	60	San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	63	63	572,000
22	15.25	Universal Robina Corp.	16.5	16.5	16.25	16.25	2,237,700
0.55	0.305	Vitarich Corp	0.37	0.37	0.37	0.37	220,000
		CONSTRUCTION, INFRASTRUCTURE & ALLIED SERVICES					
6.1	1.59	EEI Corp	4.25	4.25	4.15	4.2	183,000
9.2	4.8	Holcim Philippines Inc.	7.3	7.6	7.3	7.6	2,860,000
7	1.28	Republic Cement Corp.	4	4	4	4	15,000
2	0.28	Southeast Asia Cement Holdings Inc	1.14	1.14	1.08	1.1	4,948,000
		CHEMICALS					
6.3	3.15	Chemrez Technologies Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.15	4.15	1,359,000
1.4	0.61	Interphil Laboratories Inc B	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	10,000
1.46	0.51	Mabuhay Vinyl Corp	1	1	1	1	50,000
		DIVERSIFIED INDUSTRIALS					
0.75	[illegible]	[illegible]	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	[illegible]
		HOLDING FIRMS					
3.9	1.92	A. Soriano Corp.	3.2	3.2	3.2	3.2	21,000
0.17	0.025	AJO.net Holdings Inc.	0.095	0.105	0.095	0.1	60,300,000
1.28	0.21	APC Group Inc.	0.58	0.59	0.58	0.59	1,480,000
0.018	0.007	Abacus Cons. Res. & Hold'gs Inc. A	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	0.0095	40,000,000
9.7	4.85	Aboitiz Equity Ventures Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.4	6.4	3,741,000
0.021	0.0075	Alcorn Gold Resources Corp.	0.013	0.014	0.013	0.014	34,000,000
7.3	3.5	Alliance Global Group Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	40,433,000
1.38	0.5	Alsons Cons. Res. Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	100,000
2.9	0.89	Anglo-Philippine Holdings Corp.	2.16	2.2	2.14	2.14	434,000
590	370.83	Ayala Corp.	462.5	465	457.5	462.5	86,330
14.5	7.04	Bacnotan Cons. Industries Inc.	12.5	12.75	12.5	12.5	13,700
5.8	1.18	Benpres Holdings Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.4	3.5	27,602,000
10.25	3.45	DMCI Holdings Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	580,000
6.9	1.06	Eton Properties Philippines Inc.	4	4	4	4	18,000
8	2.55	Filinvest Development Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.5	5.5	98,000
3.55	1.16	House of Investments Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.82	1.82	220,000
14.5	5.7	JG Summit Holdings Inc.	9.6	9.6	9.5	9.5	11,000
5.9	0.61	Jolliville Holdings Corp.	1.74	1.74	1.64	1.64	21,000
11.5	0.98	Multitech Investments Corp.	4.8	4.9	4.6	4.65	3,722,000
8.2	2.8	PAL Holdings Inc	7	7	6.9	7	123,000
0.215	0.01	Pacifica Inc. A	0.17	0.195	0.165	0.175	1,080,970,000
452.5	215.79	SM Investments Corp.	360	360	345	347.5	245,480
0.73	0.125	Sinophil Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.31	0.32	7,380,000
1.6	0.88	South China Resources Inc.	1.42	1.42	1.4	1.4	224,000
23	1	TKC Steel Corp.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	1,000
0.75	0.1	Wellex Industries Inc	0.33	0.33	0.31	0.33	910,200
		PROPERTY					
2.34	0.78	A Brown Company Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.4	1.4	687,000
8.9	5	Anchor Land Holdings Inc.	7.5	7.7	7.3	7.5	45,000
19.25	11.25	Ayala Land Inc	14.25	14.25	13.5	14	4,310,000
1.88	0.99	Belle Corp.	1.08	1.1	1.08	1.08	2,011,000
4.7	2.46	Cebu Holdings Inc.	3.6	3.65	3.6	3.65	23,000
2.1	1.2	Cebu Property Venture & Dev't Corp.B	1.72	1.72	1.72	1.72	3,000
0.86	0.29	Crown Equities Inc.	0.62	0.66	0.61	0.66	740,000
0.83	0.24	Cyber Bay Corp.	0.42	0.42	0.4	0.4	500,000
0.99	0.49	Empire East Land Holdings Inc.	0.66	0.67	0.65	0.66	10,470,000
0.47	0.048	Ever Gotesco Res. and Hold'gs Inc.	0.21	0.215	0.21	0.215	1,810,000
1.48	0.43	Fil-Estate Land Inc.	1.14	1.16	1.14	1.16	3,195,000
2.44	1.09	Filinvest Land Inc.	1.44	1.46	1.4	1.46	12,258,000
1.12	0.24	MRC Allied Industries Inc.	0.6	0.6	0.59	0.59	670,000
4.4	1.09	Megaworld Corp.	3.35	3.35	3.2	3.25	75,490,000
6.4	1.5	Metro Pacific Investments Corp.	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8	23,000
0.7	0.125	Phil. Estates Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	2,040,000
0.87	0.32	Phil. Realty and Holdings Corp.	0.45	0.46	0.45	0.46	2,370,000
9.2	1.1	Polar Property Holdings Corp.	3.55	3.55	3.55	3.55	65,000
23	12.5	Robinson Land Corp.	17.5	17.75	17.5	17.5	2,310,500
5.9	1.5	SM Development Corp.	3.9	4	3.8	3.8	530,000
13.5	6.24	SM Prime Holdings Inc.	11.25	11.25	11	11	3,491,700
3.25	0.85	Shang Properties Inc.	2.5	2.7	2.5	2.7	102,000
1.34	0.46	Suntrust Home Developers Inc.	0.58	0.6	0.58	0.6	200,000
0.49	0.08	Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	510,000
7.5	3.65	Vista Land and Lifescapes Inc	4.9	5	4.9	5	716,000
		MEDIA					
38.5	16	ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	31	31	31	31	67,400
11.75	8.7	GMA Network Inc	9.4	9.4	9.1	9.3	531,000
		TELECOMMUNICATIONS					
2.12	1.1	Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	1.22	1.24	1.2	1.2	933,000
1,445.00	1,025.00	Globe Telecom Inc.	1,325.00	1,325.00	1,315.00	1,320.00	269,850
2,820.00	1,995.00	Phil. Long Distance Telephone Co.	2,670.00	2,690.00	2,670.00	2,685.00	94,620
7.9	4.15	Pilipino Telephone Corp	6.7	6.9	6.7	6.9	479,000
		INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY					
0.33	0.17	Boulevard Holdings Inc	0.185	0.19	0.185	0.19	1,890,000
11.5	2	IPVG Corp.	8.5	8.6	8.5	8.6	207,000
0.065	0.027	ISM Communications Corp.	0.031	0.031	0.03	0.031	17,100,000
0.32	0.043	Island Info and Technology Inc.	0.195	0.205	0.195	0.205	59,790,000
2.08	1.1	Music Semiconductors Corp.	1.26	1.28	1.26	1.28	550,000
0.0725	0.027	PhilWeb.Com Inc.	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.048	35,000,000
5.9	1	Transpacific Broadband Grp Int'l Inc	2.85	2.9	2.75	2.9	[illegible]
		TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
2.14	1.14	Aboitiz Transport System Corp.	1.78	1.78	1.6	1.6	143,000
6.8	3.15	Asian Terminals Inc.	3.6	3.7	3.6	3.7	386,000
34.5	15.5	Int'l Container Terminal Services Inc	32	33	32	33	151,100
		HOTEL & LEISURE					
4.55	2.6	Philippine Racing Club Inc	3.6	3.8	3.6	3.6	18,000
0.98	0.3	Premiere Entertainment Prod'n Inc	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	150,000
		EDUCATION					
3	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	3	[illegible]	3	[illegible]
		DIVERSIFIED SERVICES					
6	1.9	Macroasia Corp.	4.2	4.35	4.2	4.3	620,000
17.25	9.8	Pacific Online Systems Corp	11.5	11.75	11.5	11.75	22,500
30	9.9	Paxys Inc	14.25	14.25	14	14	151,000
		MINING					
0.017	0.0085	Abra Mining and Industrial Corp.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	136,600,000
7.6	3.6	Apex Mining Company Inc. A	5.3	5.3	5.1	5.1	388,000
7.7	3.85	Apex Mining Company Inc. B	5.1	5.1	4.95	5.1	120,000
21.25	7.7	Atlas Cons. Mining and Dev't Corp.	13.75	14	13.5	13.75	1,759,800
14.25	8.7	Benguet Corp. A	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
5	1.8	Dizon Copper Silver Mines Inc.	3	3	3	3	51,000
3.1	0.33	Geograce Resources Phil. Inc.	1.62	1.7	1.6	1.6	98,837,000
0.35	0.18	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. A	0.26	0.27	0.26	0.27	18,700,000
0.42	0.22	Lepanto Consolidated Mining Co. B	0.31	0.31	0.3	0.3	7,920,000
0.038	0.017	Manila Mining Corp. A	0.025	0.025	0.025	0.025	157,900,000
0.041	0.019	Manila Mining Corp. B	0.03	0.03	0.029	0.03	241,800,000
30	1.2	NiHAO Minerals Resources Int'l Inc.	11.25	11.75	10.75	11	1,678,500
0.021	0.0079	Omico Corp.	0.012	0.012	0.011	0.012	80,000,000
6.4	3.15	Philex Mining Corp.	6.3	6.3	6	6.2	20,269,000
43	14.75	Semirara Mining Corp.	30	30	30	30	9,000
1.36	0.39	United Paragon Mining Corp.	1	1	0.99	0.99	20,000
1.8	0.56	Vulcan Industrial and Mining Corp	1.16	1.16	1.16	1.16	590,000
		OIL					
0.58	0.25	Basic Energy Corp.	0.33	0.34	0.33	0.33	1,520,000
0.025	0.0095	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. A	0.022	0.022	0.021	0.022	77,000,000
0.027	0.01	Oriental Pet. and Minerals Corp. B	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	9,200,000
11.75	9	Petroenergy Resources Corp.	9.8	9.8	9.8	9.8	30,000
0.028	0.0089	The Philodrill Corp.	0.023	0.023	0.023	0.023	98,400,000

AVERAGES				VOLUME	VALUE
Financial	867.90	DOWN	11.69	19,419,780	393,952,725.00
Industrial	4,451.38	DOWN	94.59	79,236,900	592,730,980.00
Holding Firms	1,777.23	DOWN	55.67	1,311,733,510	685,288,905.00
Property	1,453.40	DOWN	33.03	124,570,200	425,428,365.00
Service	1,604.54	DOWN	4.68	122,913,240	829,497,635.00
Mining & Oil	6,062.66	DOWN	154.30	952,795,300	358,977,445.00
All Shares Index	2,079.79	DOWN	37.47		
PSEi	3,281.08	DOWN	51.89		
		GRAND TOTALS		2,610,668,930	3,285,876,055.00

COMPILED BY SCHATZI QUODALA, INQUIRER RESEARCH

SOURCE: TECHNISTOCK, PSE

CURRENCIES

September 10, 2007 Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Dollar Equivalent	Peso Equivalent
United States	Dollar	0.726111	1.000000	46.5260
Japan	Yen	0.006398	0.008812	0.4100
United Kingdom	Pound	1.473061	2.028700	94.3873
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.093241	0.128411	5.9745
Switzerland	Franc	0.610999	0.841468	39.1501
Canada	Dollar	0.688322	0.947957	44.1046
Singapore	Dollar	0.476263	0.655910	30.5169
Australia	Dollar	0.598114	0.823723	38.3245
Bahrain	Dinar*	1.926228	2.652801	123.4242
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.193599	0.266624	12.4049
Brunei	Dollar	0.474707	0.653766	30.4171
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000077	0.000106	0.0049
Thailand	Baht	0.022390	0.030836	1.4347
UAE	Dirham	0.197737	0.272324	12.6701
EU	Euro	1.000000	1.377200	64.0756
Korea	Won	0.000773	0.001065	0.0496
China	Yuan**	0.096308	0.132635	6.1710
Denmark	Kroner	0.134325	0.184993	8.6070
India	Rupee	0.017973	0.024752	1.1516
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.207342	0.285551	13.2855
New Zealand	Dollar	0.498531	0.686577	31.9437
Sweden	Kroner	0.106889	0.147208	6.8490
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.021974	0.030262	1.4080

Source: Reuters' forex closing prices as of NY time—Sept. 7, 2007
* Various banks in Bahrain as quoted in Reuters' Screen.
** Asian time closing rate as of Sept. 7, 2007

BIR, BOC asked to be exempted from salary standardization

By Michelle V. Remo

FINANCE SECRETARY MARGARITO Teves wants the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the Bureau of Customs streamlined and exempted from the Salary Standardization law.

Teves said increasing the pay of BIR and BOC employees and rationalizing their organizations would help professionalize their services and, hopefully, improve revenue collection.

The finance chief said better pay for employees would encourage them to improve their performance in tax and duty collection, and provide services to the public.

The BIR and the BOC are the biggest revenue earners among government agencies, and have a significant influence on the national government's ability to meet its deficit-reduction targets.

The BIR has over 11,000 employees, while the BOC has over 4,000.

"If the government can do for the BIR and the BOC what the private sector has, then we may develop highly professional organizations," Teves told reporters in an ambush interview after the Senate hearing on the proposed 2008 national budget.

Teves acknowledged that the proposals of streamlining the BIR and the BOC and exempting their employees from the Salary Standardization Law, or Republic Act No. 6758, were not new. But he said these were prudent suggestions that are worth reiterating.

"Hopefully, these proposals may be discussed by our policy makers," he said.

Teves opined that streamlining and raising the salaries of BIR and BOC employees might be a more prudent way of boosting revenue collection than the Lateral Attrition law.

The Lateral Attrition law, one of the Arroyo administration's measures to put its fiscal house in order, mandates the granting of rewards to BIR and BOC employees if the agencies exceed their collection targets for the year.

The law likewise imposes penalties on the agencies that fail to meet the targets. If the revenue-collection shortfall is at least 7.5 percent of the full-year target, then concerned employees may either be reassigned, demoted or dismissed.

The BIR and the BOC failed to meet their revenue collection targets in the first half—reason why the government breached its deficit ceiling for the period.

7 geothermal sites become ecozones

Malacañang issues directive to address investors' clamor for lower power rates

By Abigail L. Ho

IN A BID TO ENCOURAGE MORE investors to locate to various parts of the country, Malacañang has declared seven geothermal sites as special industrial economic zones.

President Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday signed in Davao an executive order directing the local government units concerned to develop the geothermal sites into ecozones.

The seven geothermal sites included five being operated by PNOC Energy Development Corp.—Mt. Apo in North Cotabato, Bago City in Negros Occidental, Palinpinon in Negros Oriental, Bacon-Manito in Sorsogon and Tongonan in Leyte. There are also two sites being operated by Chevron—Tiwi in Albay and Makban in Laguna.

The Malacañang directive seeks to address the clamor of investors for lower electricity rates.

With the executive order, the special ecozones to be developed near or adjacent to the geothermal sites would be able to enjoy open access, or the option to choose their own power suppliers.

The order is expected to help geothermal host areas attract investment, spur employment, increase productivity and income, and boost infrastructure and technological development.

"Our host communities have been benefiting from stable power supply," PNOC-EDC president and chief executive Paul Aquino said in a statement yesterday. "Our geothermal projects also help in poverty alleviation and countryside development by providing means to stimulate the local economy."

The Department of Energy will soon declare open access in the country's public and private ecozones—a move that is seen to make Filipino industries more competitive with their counterparts abroad.

Gov't rejects all bids ... From page B3

Uncertainty over a Federal Reserve policy review is also making investors cautious, another trader said. Speculation is growing that the US central bank could cut rates by as much as 50 basis points next week.

A verdict is expected on Sept. 12 in the trial of Estrada, who faces life imprisonment if found guilty of stealing up to $80 million while in power.

"Regardless of the verdict, either way a particular interest group will react," the first trader said. *With a report from Reuters*

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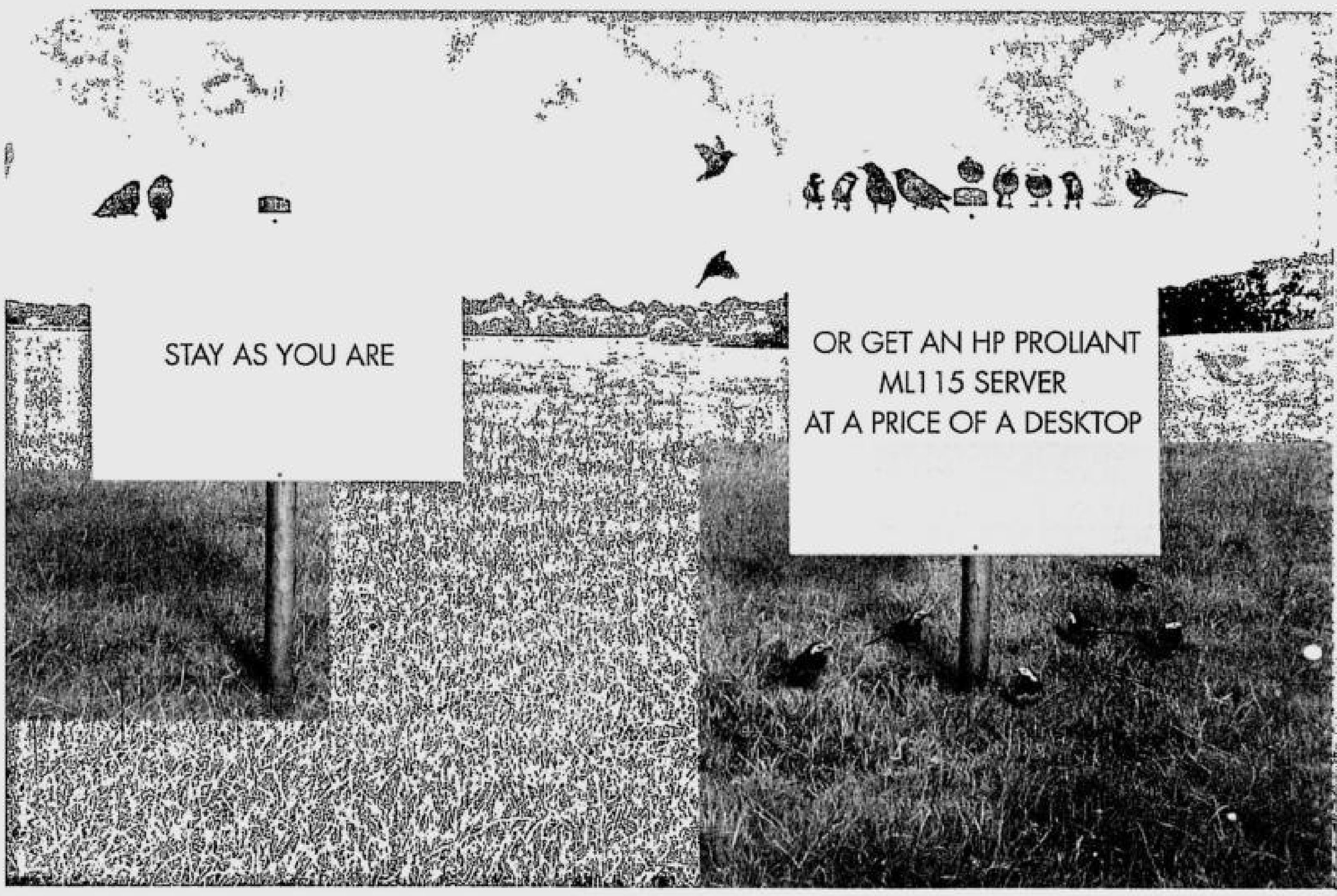

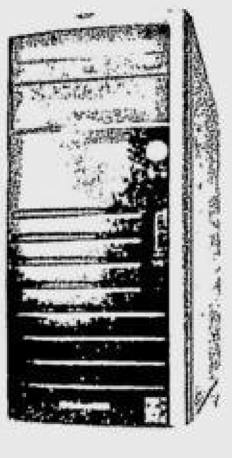

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Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT
National Capital Region
DY Int'l Bldg., 1650 San Marcelino
cor. General Malvar St., Malate, Manila

NOTICE OF FILING OF APPLICATION/S FOR ALIEN EMPLOYMENT PERMIT/S (AEP/S)

Notice is hereby given that the following companies/employers have filed with this Regional Office application/s for Alien Employment Permit/s:

Name and address of Company/Employer	Name of Foreign National	Position
AIR DRILLING ASSOCIATES PTE. LTD. 7/F SGV II Bldg., 6758 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Ali Reza Yazdani Canadian	Air Drilling Supervisor
MARUBENI CORPORATION **(assigned to Team Energy Corporation)** 8/F L.V. Locsin Bldg., 6752 Ayala Ave., Makati City	Kazunobu Takijima Japanese	Representative
NORFOLK INTERNATIONAL INC. 502 ITC Bldg., 337 Sen. Gil Puyat Ave., Makati City	David Charles Mc Kenna Irish	Chairman
JOHAN KOREAN LANGUAGE EDUCATIONAL NETWORK 405 The Taipan Place, 1605 F. Ortigas Jr. St., Ortigas Center Brgy. San Antonio, Pasig City	Yean Suk Kim Korean	Operations and Marketing Manager
FIRST ADVANTAGE PHILIPPINES, INC. 10/F The Paragon Corp. Centre, Industry St., Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Iris Shu Fen Tan Singaporean	Senior Client Services Manager
WONDERPHIL CONSULTANT CORP. Unit F, 7/F Westgate Tower, Madrigal Business Park, Ayala Alabang, Muntinlupa City	Geun Soo Gang Korean	Chairman of the Board/President
GLOBAL STEEL PHILIPPINES (SPV-AMC) INC. U-2703, 27F 88 Corp. Center, 141 Sedeño cor. Valero Sts., Salcedo Vill., Mktl. City	Pravin Ghate Indian	Dy. Manager - Electronics
THE COLOUR RED, INC. 1100 88 Corporate Center, Sedeno St., Salcedo Village, Makati City	Sarah Kay Rosser British	Vice President for Finance
WASHINGTON INT'L. LANGUAGE CENTRE, INC. 24/F Washington Tower, Asiaworld City, E. Aguinaldo Blvd., Paranaque City	Hwayeon Lee Korean	Korean Student Affairs Coordinator
AZTERIZK CONSULTANTS INC. 19 A Gumamela St., Clinicville, BF Homes, Paranaque City	Jung Hee Lee (wife of Ji) Korean	Marketing Staff
IFAFA TECH, INC. 34/F PBCom Tower, Ayala Ave., Makati City	Wenyuan Zhao Chinese	Consultant
eTELECARE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS, INC. 31/F Cyberzone Bldg., Eastwood Cyberpark, Bagumbayan, Quezon City	Rajat Saggar American	Senior Capacity Manager
SECRET RECIPES FOOD CORP. 070 Panalturan St., Baesa, Quezon City	Zengwei Liu Chinese	General Manager
WU PHILS TRADING CORPORATION 318 Lavizares cor. Camba St., Tondo, Manila	Xiaoxiao Xu Chinese	Purchasing Manager

If you have any information/objection to the abovementioned application/s please communicate with the Regional Director.

RAYMUNDO G. AGRAVANTE
OIC Regional Director

(PDI–September 11, 2007)

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INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Supreme Court through the Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (Committee on Bids) invites prospective suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for:

Name of Project	Approved Budget	Source of funding
Janitorial Services for the Supreme Court (34 janitorial personnel)	P5,861,287.20	General Appropriations Act- CY-2007

PERIOD OF CONTRACT: One Calendar Year

SCHEDULE OF ACTIVITIES:

I. PRE-BID CONFERENCE

The pre-bid conference will be held on:

Date: September 18, 2007, Tuesday
Venue: Session Hall 3rd Floor, Old Bldg. Taft Ave., Manila
Time: 2:00 p.m.

II. SUBMISSION OF ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS AND OPENING OF BIDS

The eligibility requirements of prospective bidders must be personally submitted by the duly authorized representative, and the bids will be opened thereafter, in the presence of the bidders or their authorized representatives, to be held on:

Date: October 02, 2007, Tuesday
Venue: Session Hall 3rd Floor, Old Bldg. Taft Avenue, Manila
Time: 2:00 p.m.

Deadline for submission of eligibility requirements with the Technical and Financial Proposal Envelope shall be at 1:30 p.m.

Prospective bidders must not be related to the head of the procuring entity or any member of the Committee on Bids or its Secretariat either by consanguinity or affinity up to the third civil degree.

Interested bidders may secure eligibility requirements and bid documents which will be available starting **September 11, 2007**, from the Secretariat, Bids and Awards Committee for Goods and Services (Committee on Bids), Society for Judicial Excellence Office, 2nd Floor Annex Building, Supreme Court, Padre Faura St., Ermita, Manila, after payment of a non-refundable fee of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00), prior to the conduct of pre-bid conference. For additional information, the bidders may contact the Secretariat, c/o Ms. Evangeline D. Reyes at tel. no. 523-13-01.

The Committee on Bids reserves the right to: 1) reject any or all bids, 2) waive any defect or informalities therein, 3) or accept any bid/s or offer/s which it may consider to be most advantageous and beneficial to the government.

September 3, 2007.

(Sgd.) NIMFA C. VILCHES
Chairperson

(PDI–Sept. 11, 2007)

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING
FULL-TIME SPEECH WRITERS/RESEARCHERS

Qualifications:

- Exemplary writing skills (English & Filipino)
- Computer Literate (MS Office Applications)
- Male or Female preferably single, 20-30 years old
- With pleasing personality
- Willing to work overtime and can work under pressure with minimal supervision

Apply personally at:
Research and Documentation Branch (RDB)
Office of the Secretary Joint Staff, AFP
3rd Floor, GHQ building, Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City

BRING A COPY OF YOUR COMPREHENSIVE RESUMÉ & 2 SAMPLES OF PREVIOUS COMPOSITIONS (if applicable)

E-mail your inquiries at:
rdb.osjs.afp@gmail.com or call RDB at 911-7807

ERRATUM

The Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid advertisement of **National Transmission Corporation** re: **Supply and Delivery of Transmission Steel Towers and Line Materials Including Installation for the Restoration of Damaged Portion of the Naga - Tayabas 500kV Transmission Line Project (Sp7.TSTNTTL.Lt-0112)** was erroneously published on September 6, 2007. It should have been printed on **September 8, 2007.**

Our apologies.

AUCTION

www.goindustry.com

2-DAY LIVE AUCTION SALE

Machine Tools; Plant Services; BUELLER Pasta Line; Mics. Equipment & Spares

On: Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th September 2007 at 10:30am
At: Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
Over 800 Lots

MACHINE TOOLS - WAKEN KIKO Gap Bed Lathe , ELLIOT Shaper, SHANGHAI UNIVERSAL Milling Machine, Dividing Head, Dobule EndedGrinders, Verticle Drill, Garage Press, Mech. Sheet Bending Roll, Asstd Size Bench Vice, MILLER Arc Welders Anvil, Manual Pipe Bender, Asstd Hand Tools, Mechanical Mobile Manlift; etc.

PLANT SERVICES - (2) STANDARDKESSER DVISBURG Steam Boilers; (2) KEWANEE Steam Boilers; HANKINSON Screw Type Aircompressor; ATLAS COPCO GA30 Screw Type Air Compressor; ATLAS COPCO Air Power Air Compressor; BOHN Chiller; STARCOSA Centrifuge; Verticle Air Cylinder; Water/Fuel Pumps; Water Treatment Facilities; Steel Storage Tanks; Asstd. S.S. Tanks / Mixing Tanks; Asstd. Pipe Valves; Fiber Glass Verticle Storage Tank; etc.

MISCELLANEOUS EQUIPMENT & SPARES - BUELLER Pasta Line; TCM / (3) YALE Battery Operated Forklifts; KITO 1.5 Ton Cap. Electric Hoist; Large Cap. Steel Constructed Grains Storge-Silo; Flour/Feed Mill Misc. Spares; Crushing/Milling Machines; Feed Conveyor/Asstd. Sizes Conveyor Belts; Steel Tote Bins; S.S. Mini Sugarcane Crusher; TRIPKO S.S. Filling Machines; Portable Corn Milling Machines; Vacuum Pump; Large Qty. Of Asstd. Induction Motors; Pump Spares; FUJI FW-7, KOMATSU Packer/STIAVELLI Packaging Machine; (5) Non Operational TCM Forklifts; Hand Pallet Jacks; Unused Solid Forklift Tyres; Asstd. YOKOHAMA Unused Tyres; Fire Extinguishers; Wooden Pallets; Asstd. Gas/Oxygen/Methy Bromide Cylinders; FISHER Isotemp Oven; Steel Lockers/Cabinets; Asstd. Hoods; Large Qty. Of Stainless /Steel Scraps; Plastic Buckets; Asstd. Fittings Bearing/Pillow Blocks; PVC Coupling/Pipes; S.S. Conveyors; Walk-In Freezer; Split/Window Type Aircon; etc.

Day 1 - Machine Tools; Plant Services; Storage; S.S. Mixing Tanks/Silos; Flour/Feed Mill Spares; Palm Oil Tanks
Day 2 - Office Furniture & Equipment; Pallet Jacks; Portable Machines; Walk-In Freezers/Spare Parts; Forklifts; Pasta Line; Snack Food Line

On View: Monday 17th & Tuesday 18th September 2007- 9am to 5pm & morning of sale day
Refundable Deposit: Php 20,000 (upon registration)

TENDER SALE

A Large Quantity of Copper Cable

Deadline of Submission of Bids: Monday 17th September 2007 - 17:00
Location of Assets: Bo. Ugong, Pasig City
VIEWING STRICTLY BY APPOINTMENT

GoIndustry Henry Butcher
INDUSTRIAL ASSET DISPOSAL AND VALUATION

Contact JENNY, JESSA or DANG
Tel: +63 2 822 5555
manila@goindustry.com

CENTRAL PANGASINAN ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.
San Carlos City, Pangasinan
Tel. #532-2222 / 532-3146

INVITATION TO BID

The **Central Pangasinan Electric Cooperative, Inc.** (CENPELCO) with office address at Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan thru Board Resolution No. 31 series of 2007, invites interested parties to bid on the disposal of scrap vehicles and office/electrical materials and equipment, to wit:

EQUIPMENT/MATERIAL DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY
A. Distribution Transformer (Assorted brands and KVA ratings)	401 units
B. Potential Transformer	4 units
C. Recloser	7 units
D. Current Transformer (Busted)	20 units
E. Assorted Junked KWH Meters	19,200 pcs.
F. Scrap Materials & others	
1. Assorted Steel Scrap & Others	1 lot
2. Junked Vehicles	10 units
3. Defective Aircon Unit	1 unit
4. Assorted Auto Batteries	12 pcs.
5. Assorted Auto Tires	280 pcs.
G. Transformer Oil	12 drums
H. Switch Gear	2 units

All interested parties shall submit Letter of Intent and secure bid documents re: Detailed list of materials to PBAC secretariat starting September 18, 2007. In addition, a non-refundable fee of Seven Hundred Fifty Pesos (P750.00) shall be paid before securing said documents. Joint inspection of materials is scheduled on September 19, 2007 at 2:00 PM and submission of sealed bid will be on **September 28, 2007 (Friday) at 2:00 PM (1400 hrs)** at CENPELCO main office, Padilla St., San Carlos City, Pangasinan wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representative.

Terms will be on "AS-IS-WHERE-IS" basis. Please submit BID BOND in cash or cashier's/manager's check equivalent to ten percent (10%) of the total bid price. Bid bond less than the required amount will be automatically disqualified. Bids/proposals submitted beyond the specified date and time will not be accepted. The minimum selling price is **Three Million Nine Hundred Forty Eight Thousand Seven Hundred Fifteen Pesos (PHP 3,948,715.00).**

CENPELCO RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, WAIVE ANY OF THE REQUIRED FORMALITY THEREIN AND ACCEPTS THE BIDS ONLY DEEMED MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE.

(Sgd.) RODRIGO F. CORPUZ
PBAC Chairman

Noted by:

(Sgd.) ENGR. EDGARDO R. PIAMONTE
Executive Officer/Project Supervisor

(PDI–Sept. 11 & 16, 2007)

NATIONAL CLASSIFIEDS
More Classified Ads:

Pag-Ibig Fund Zamboanga Branch B2
City Government of Cebu B4

OBITUARIES

Our Dearly Beloved

PEK LIAN (MARY) SY TAN

Pencefully joined our Lord and her husband TAN PAK on September 8, 2007 at the age of 71.

Her children **Ernesto** & **Maritess**, **Celia** and **William**; grandchildren **Kathryn Hazel**, **Kenneth Michael**, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Chapel-9, La Funeraria Paz, Inc., Araneta Avenue, Q.C.

Interment will be on Friday, September 14, 2007 at Himlayang Pilipino, Tandang Sora, Quezon City.

For your Classified Ads requirements, call our Classifieds Advertising Hotlines:

HEAD OFFICE	MAKATI
897-8808 loc. 514, 516 899-4425, 897-2535 897-8425 (Telefax)	892-5578, 811-4361, 811-4370
	KALAW
	528-0213, 527-3342
CUBAO	**MEGAMALL**
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)	635-0219, 635-0220

In Loving Memory of the 6th Death Anniversary of

RUFINO (ROY) F. SANTOS III

Sept. 11, 2001 – WTC, New York, NY

and

the Birth Anniversary of the late

RUFINO R. SANTOS JR.

Sept. 17, 2007

Their loving family, **Aurora, Ronald & Cherry, Rico & Jennifer** and **RV Santos** have offered masses at the following churches:

St. Andrew the Apostle Parish *N. Garcia St., Bel Air, Makati*	6:30 am, 12:15 nn, 6:00 pm
The National Shrine of the Sacred Heart *Dao, San Antonio Village, Makati*	7:30 am 12:15 nn & 6:00 pm
St. John Bosco Parish *Arnaiz St., Makati City*	7:30 am, 12:15nn & 6:00 pm
Santuario de San Antonio *McKinley Road, Forbes, Makati City*	7:30 am, 12:00 nn & 6:00 pm
San Roque Parish Church *Pateros, Metro Manila*	6:00 am
San Pedro Parish Church *San Pedro, Laguna*	6:00 am

Also Holy Masses will be offered at St. Patrick Cathedral, New York; St. Vincent de Ferrer, Lexington, New York; Holy Rosary Cathedral, Vancouver B.C., Canada & St. Paul Parish, Richmond, B.C., Canada and St. Thomas More Church, Alhambra, CA.

Message of Thanks

We are tremendously grateful to our family, friends, and colleagues for their outpouring of kindness, sympathy and support as we cope with the loss of our beloved husband and father. A special thanks to Father Louie David for the solace offered by his beautiful homilies.

We, the family of the late

Manuel G. Lim,

miss him deeply. He was a pioneering surgeon, a compassionate physician, a brilliant mentor, and a warm and loving father who will be remembered always. Thank you for sharing in our wonderful memories of him.

Mortuary and Cremalory at The Heritage Park

Republic of the Philippines

COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS

Manila

GUIDELINES ON THE FILING OF CERTIFICATES OF CANDIDACY IN CONNECTION WITH THE OCTOBER 29, 2007 SYNCHRONIZED BARANGAY AND SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN ELECTIONS.

x- -x

Benjamin S. Abalos,	Chairman
Resurreccion Z. Borra	Commissioner
Florentino A. Tuason, Jr.	Commissioner
Romeo A. Brawner	Commissioner
Rene V. Sarmiento	Commissioner
Nicodemo T. Ferrer	Commissioner

Promulgated: 06 September 2007

RESOLUTION NO. 8297

The Commission on Elections, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the Constitution, the Omnibus Election Code, Republic Act No. 9164, and other election laws, **RESOLVED** to promulgate, as it hereby **RESOLVES** to promulgate, the following guidelines on the filing of certificates of candidacy in connection with the October 29, 2007 synchronized *Barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan* elections.

SECTION 1. ***Officials to be elected.*** – The officials to be elected in each barangay are the following:

(a) For the Barangay Elections:
One (1) *Punong Barangay* and seven (7) *Sangguniang Barangay Kagawad.*

(b) For the *Sangguniang Kabataan* Elections:
One (1) Chairman and seven (7) *Sangguniang Kabataan Kagawad.*

Sec. 2. ***Qualifications*** – (a) Candidates for Punong Barangay and *Sangguniang Barangay Kagawad* must be:

(1) Filipino citizens;
(2) At least 18 years old on election day;
(3) Able to read and write Pilipino or any local language or dialect; and
(4) Registered voters of the *barangay* where they intend to run for office and residents thereof for at least one (1) year immediately preceding the day of the election.

(b) Candidates for *Sangguniang Kabataan* Chairman and *Sangguniang Kabataan Kagawad* must be:

(1) Filipino citizens;
(2) At least fifteen (15) years old but less than eighteen (18) years old on election day;
(3) Able to read and write Pilipino, English or the local dialect; and
(4) Qualified voters of the *katipunan ng kabataan* of the *barangay* where they intend to run for office and residents thereof at least one (1) year immediately preceding the election.

Sec. 3. ***Disqualifications.*** – The following are disqualified from running for any elective *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* positions:

(a) Those sentenced by final judgment for an offense involving moral turpitude or for an offense punishable by one (1) year or more of imprisonment, and within two (2) years after service of sentence;
(b) Those removed from office as a result of an administrative case;
(c) Those convicted by final judgment for violating their allegiance to the Republic;
(d) Those with dual citizenship unless at the time of filing of the certificate of candidacy, he makes a personal and sworn renunciation of any and all foreign citizenship before any public officer authorized to administer an oath;
(e) Fugitives from justice. A fugitive from justice includes not only those who flee after conviction to avoid punishment but likewise who, after being charged, flee to avoid prosecution;
(f) Permanent residents in a foreign country or those who have acquired the right to reside abroad and continue to avail themselves of the same right after the effectivity of the Local Government Code;
(g) The insane or feeble-minded; and
(h) Any candidate who, in an action or protest in which he is a party, is declared by final decision of a competent court to be guilty of having, or is found by the Commission to have, committed the following acts shall be disqualified from continuing as a candidate or, if already elected, from holding office:
   (1) Given money or other material consideration to influence or induce voters to vote for or against a candidate, or to abstain from voting, or to corrupt government officials and employees performing election functions;
   (2) Committed acts of terrorism to enhance his candidacy;
   (3) Spent in his election campaign an amount in excess of that allowed by law;
   (4) Solicited, received, or made any contribution prohibited under Sec. 89, 95, 96, 97 and 104 of the Omnibus Election Code; or
   (5) Violated any of Secs. 80, 83, 85, 86 and 261 (pars. d, e, k, v and cc, sub par. 6) of the same Code.

Sec. 4. ***Candidates holding appointive or elective office.*** – Appointive *barangay*, city/municipal, provincial, regional, or national officials or employees, or those in the civil or military service, including those in government-owned or controlled corporations, shall be considered automatically resigned upon the filing of a certificate of candidacy for a *barangay* or *sangguniang kabataan* office.

Elective officials running for any *barangay* elective position shall not be considered resigned upon the filing of their certificates of candidacy.

Sec. 5. ***Certificate of candidacy.*** – Any person running as candidate for *Punong Barangay, Sangguniang Barangay Kagawad, Sangguniang Kabataan* chairman or *Sangguniang Kabataan Kagawad* shall file a sworn certificate of candidacy in triplicate in the form attached herein as Annexes "A-1" and "B-1", respectively. The format of the certificate of candidacy may be obtained from the Election Officer, free of charge.

The candidate shall file the certificate of candidacy personally or by his duly authorized representative. No certificate of candidacy shall be filed or accepted by mail, telegram or facsimile.

No person shall be eligible to run for more than one office, that is, *Punong Barangay* and *Barangay Kagawad*, and if he files his certificate of candidacy for more than one office, he shall not be eligible for any one of them. However, before the expiration of the period for the filing of certificate of candidacy, the person who has filed a certificate of candidacy for more than one office may declare under oath the office for which he desires to be elected and cancel the certificate of candidacy for the other office.

The certificate of candidacy shall be filed on any day from **September 14, 2007 to September 19, 2007**, inclusive, with the Office of the Election Officer of the city/municipality concerned. In this regard Comelec Resolution No. 8264 dated August 8, 2007 is amended insofar as the period for the filing of certificates of candidacy for the *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* elections.

In cities/municipalities where there are two or more Election Officers, the certificate of candidacy shall be filed with the Office of the Election Officer having jurisdiction over the *barangay* where he is a candidate.

The Election Officer or any authorized employee receiving the certificate shall record in separate logbooks, the date and time of receipt of the certificate of candidacy for *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* candidates. The date and time of receipt shall also be indicated in each copy of the certificate of candidacy.

Sec. 6. ***Contents of certificate of candidacy.*** – The certificate of candidacy shall contain the following:

(a) A statement announcing the candidacy of the person filing it;
(b) The position for which he is a candidate;
(c) A statement that he is eligible for said position;
(d) His citizenship, residence and date of birth;
(e) His post office address for election purpose;
(f) His profession or occupation;
(g) A statement that he is eligible for the office he is running for and that he is not a member of any political party, group or coalition of political parties;
(h) A statement that he will support and defend the Constitution of the Republic of the Philippines and maintain true faith and allegiance thereto, and that he will obey the laws and legal orders promulgated by the duly-constituted authorities;
(i) A declaration that he is not a permanent resident of, or an immigrant to, a foreign country;
(j) The name or names of person he prefers to substitute him as candidate in the event of his death;
(k) That he assumes the obligations imposed by his oath voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion; and that the facts stated in the certificate of candidacy are true to the best of his knowledge; and
(l) Such other data as may be required by the Commission.

Unless a candidate has officially changed his name through a court approved proceeding, a candidate shall use in his certificate of candidacy the name by which he has been baptized, or if he has not been baptized in any church or religion, the name registered in the office of the local civil registrar or any other name allowed under the provisions of existing law or, in the case of a Muslim, his Hadji name after performing the prescribed religious pilgrimage. However, when there are two (2) or more candidates for the same office with the same name and surname, each candidate, upon being made aware of such fact, shall state his paternal and maternal surnames, except an incumbent who may continue to use the name and surname stated in his certificate of candidacy when he was elected. He may also include one (1) nickname or stage name by which he is generally or popularly known in the locality. Titles such as Don, Hadji, Datu, Atty., Dr. or other words of similar import shall not be allowed.

Sec. 7. ***Distribution of certificates of candidacy and preparation of list of candidates.*** – (a) Copies of the certificate of candidacy shall be distributed by the Election Officer as follows:

(1) For *Barangay* Officials:
   i. Original Copy, to the Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections, Manila;
   ii. Second Copy, to be retained by the Election Officer for his file; and
   iii. Third Copy, to be retained by the candidate concerned.
(2) For *Sangguniang Kabataan* Officials:
   i. Original Copy, to the Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections, Manila;
   ii. Second Copy, to be retained by the Election Officer for his file and
   iii. Third Copy, to be retained by the candidate concerned.

(b) Immediately after the last day for the filling of certificates of candidacy, the Election Officer shall prepare a certified consolidated list of all candidates for *barangay* and *Sangguniang Kabataan* officials for each *barangay*.
(c) Within two (2) days after the last day for the filing of certificates of candidacy, the Election Officer shall transmit a copy of the said list together with the original copies of the certificates of candidacy to the following offices;
   (1) *Barangay* candidates – Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections, Manila
   (2) *Sangguniang Kabataan* candidates – Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections, Manila

Within the same period, the Election Officer shall also furnish his Provincial Election Supervisor with a copy of the certified consolidated list of candidates

(d) The Election Records and Statistics Department and the Provincial Election Supervisor shall acknowledge receipt of said copies and list within two (2) days from receipt thereof.
(e) At least seven (7) days before election day, the Election Officer shall post copies of said lists in the barangay hall and in three (3) other conspicuous places in the barangay.
(f) Before the preparation of the certified lists of candidates, it shall be the duty of the Election Officer to: (1) verify whether all candidates for *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* positions are registered voters of the barangay where they file their certificates of candidacy; and (2) examine the entries of the certificates of candidacy and determine on the basis of said entries whether the candidate concerned possesses all the qualifications of a candidate.
(g) If there are candidates who are not registered voters in the barangay where they run for barangay or sangguniang kabataan positions or do not possess all the other qualifications of a candidate, he shall make the corresponding report by courier (LBC/DHL etc.) and by **FAX** (5272768/**E-MAIL** (law@comelec.gov.ph) to the Law Department of the Commission within three (3) days from the last day for filing of the certificates of candidacy, copy furnished the Election Records and Statistics Department (Fax No. 5270828; email address (ersd@comelec.gov.ph). The names of said candidates, however, shall still be included in the certified lists of candidates until the Commission directs otherwise.
(h) Within three (3) days from receipt of said report, the Law Department shall make the appropriate recommendation to the Commission.

Sec. 8. ***Withdrawal of certificate of candidacy.*** – Any person who has filed a certificate of candidacy may, not lather than three (3) days before the election, withdraw the same by filing a sworn declaration of withdrawal in triplicate with the Office of the Election Officer where he filed his certificate of candidacy. The declaration of withdrawal shall be distributed in the same manner as the certificates of candidacy, furnishing a copy or copies thereof to the Board(s) of Election Tellers concerned.

The copy for the Election Records and Statistics Department, Commission on Elections, Manila shall be transmitted within twenty-four (24) hours from the filing of the declaration. The transmittal shall be confirmed by fax or e-mail within the same period. The Election Records and Statistics Department shall immediately acknowledge receipt thereof.

The filing or withdrawal of a certificate of candidacy shall not affect any civil, criminal or administrative liabilities of the candidate concerned.

Sec. 9. ***Substitution of candidates.*** – There shall be no substitution of candidates for *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* officials, except in case of death of a candidate. For this purpose, the candidate shall indicate in his certificate of candidacy the names of the persons in the order of preference, who shall take his place in the event of his death.

Sec. 10. ***Petitions to deny due course to or cancellation of a certificate of candidacy.*** – A verified petition to deny due course to or cancel a certificate of candidacy pursuant to Sec. 69 (nuisance candidate) or Sec. 78 (material misrepresentation in the certificate of candidacy) of the Omnibus Election Code shall be filed directly with the Office of the Provincial Election Supervisor concerned by any registered candidate for the same office personally or through a duly-authorized representative within five (5) days from the last day for filing of certificate of candidacy. In the National Capital Region, the same shall be filed directly with the Office of the Regional Election Director.

In provinces where the designated Provincial Election Supervisor is not a lawyer the petition shall be filed with the Regional Election Director concerned.

Filing by mail is not allowed.

Within twenty-four hours from receipt of the petition, the Provincial Election Supervisor or the Regional Election Director of the National Capital Region, as the case may be, shall issue the corresponding summons requiring the respondent candidate to answer the petition within three (3) days from receipt. Immediately upon receipt of the answer, the petition shall be set for hearing for the reception of evidence of the parties but not later than five (5) days from the service of summons. The Resolution of the Hearing Officer shall be submitted to the Commission through the Clerk of the Commission within fifteen (15) days from receipt of the petition.

Sec. 11. ***Petition for disqualification.*** – A verified petition to disqualify a candidate on the ground of ineligibility or under Section 68 of the Omnibus Election Code may be filed at anytime before proclamation of the winning candidate by any registered voter or any candidate for the same office. The procedure prescribed in the preceding section shall be applicable herein.

A complaint for disqualification under Section 68 of the Omnibus Election Code in relation to Section 6 of Republic Act No. 6646 filed before proclamation against a candidate who is subsequently proclaimed as winner shall be dismissed as a disqualification case. However, the complaint shall be referred to the Law Department of the Commission for preliminary investigation.

All disqualification cases filed on the ground of ineligibility shall continue, although the candidate has already been proclaimed.

The Commission shall give priority to cases of disqualification of candidates for *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* elective offices to the end that final judgment is rendered thereon before the election.

Any candidate who has been declared disqualified by final judgment shall not be voted for and votes cast in his favor shall not be counted. If, for any reason, he is not declared disqualified by final judgment before the election and he is voted for and receives the winning number of votes, the case shall continue and upon motion of the petitioner, complainant, or intervenor, the proclamation of such candidate may be ordered suspended during the pendency of the said case whenever the evidence is strong.

Sec. 12. ***Authority of the Election Officer to administer oath.*** – For purposes of the *barangay* and *sangguniang kabataan* elections, the Election Officer shall be authorized to administer oaths, free of charge, on all matters related to the conduct of said elections, including the administration of oath to certificates of candidacy.

Sec. 13. ***Effectivity.*** – This Resolution shall take effect on the seventh day after its publication in two (2) daily newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Sec. 14. ***Dissemination.*** – The Education and Information Department shall cause the immediate publication of this Resolution, give the same the widest dissemination possible and furnish copies thereof to all Regional Election Directors, Provincial Election Supervisors and Election Officers.

BENJAMIN S. ABALOS
Chairman

RESURRECCION Z. BORRA
Commissioner

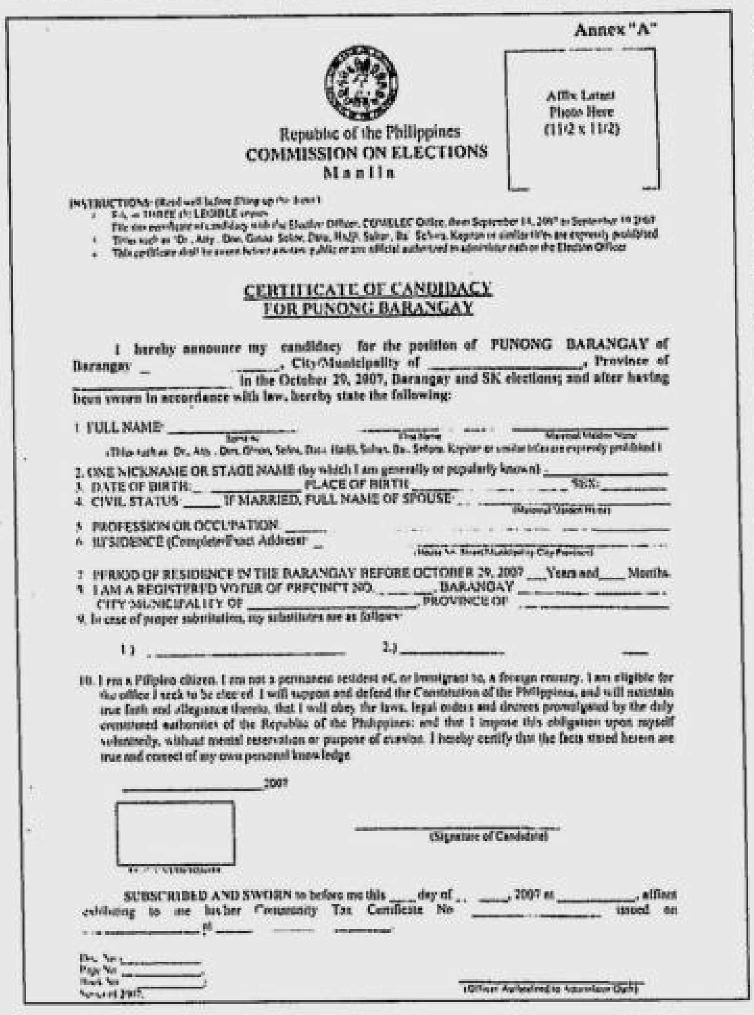
FLORENTINO A. TUASON, JR.
Commissioner

ROMEO A. BRAWNER
Commissioner

RENE V. SARMIENTO
Commissioner

NICODEMO T. FERRER
Commissioner

(PDI-September 11, 2007)



Annex "A"

Affix Latest Photo Here (1 1/2 x 1 1/2)

Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

INSTRUCTIONS (Read well before filling up the form)
1. Fill in THREE (3) LEGIBLE copies
2. File this certificate of candidacy with the Election Officer, COMELEC Office, from September 14, 2007 to September 19, 2007
3. Titles such as 'Dr.', Atty., Don, Ginoo, Señor, Datu, Hadji, Sultan, Bai, Señora, Kapitan or similar titles are expressly prohibited
4. This certificate shall be sworn before a notary public or any official authorized to administer oath or the Election Officer

CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY
FOR PUNONG BARANGAY

I hereby announce my candidacy for the position of PUNONG BARANGAY of Barangay ____________, City/Municipality of ____________, Province of ____________ in the October 29, 2007, Barangay and SK elections; and after having been sworn in accordance with law, hereby state the following:

1. FULL NAME: ____________ ____________ ____________
(Surname) (First Name) (Maternal Maiden Name)
(Titles such as Dr., Atty., Don, Ginoo, Señor, Datu, Hadji, Sultan, Bai, Señora, Kapitan or similar titles are expressly prohibited.)
2. ONE NICKNAME OR STAGE NAME (by which I am generally or popularly known) ____________
3. DATE OF BIRTH: ____________ PLACE OF BIRTH ____________ SEX: ____________
4. CIVIL STATUS ______ IF MARRIED, FULL NAME OF SPOUSE: ____________ (Maternal Maiden Name)
5. PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION: ____________
6. RESIDENCE (Complete/Exact Address): ____________ (House No. Street/Municipality City/Province)
7. PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN THE BARANGAY BEFORE OCTOBER 29, 2007 ___Years and ___ Months.
8. I AM A REGISTERED VOTER OF PRECINCT NO. ______, BARANGAY ____________
CITY/MUNICIPALITY OF ____________, PROVINCE OF ____________
9. In case of proper substitution, my substitutes are as follows:
1.) ____________ 2.) ____________
10. I am a Filipino citizen. I am not a permanent resident of, or immigrant to, a foreign country. I am eligible for the office I seek to be elected. I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines, and will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto, that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion. I hereby certify that the facts stated herein are true and correct of my own personal knowledge.

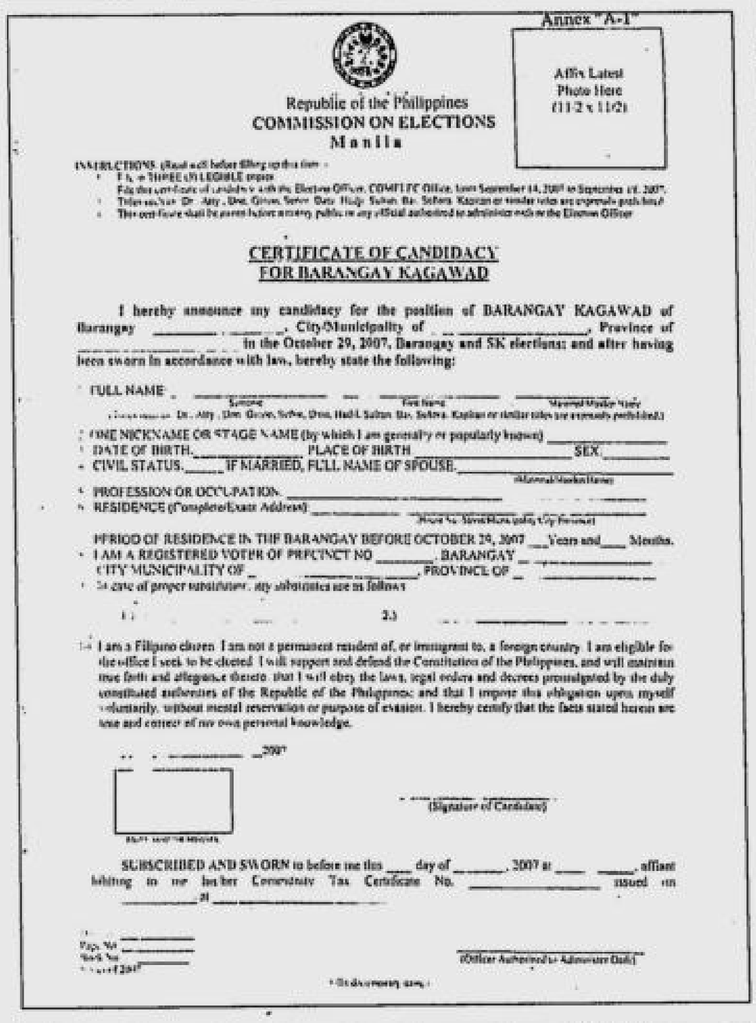
____________, 2007

(Signature of Candidate)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this ___ day of ______, 2007 at ____________, affiant exhibiting to me his/her Community Tax Certificate No. ____________ issued on ____________ at ____________.

Doc. No. ______
Page No. ______
Book No. ______
Series of 2007.

(Officer Authorized to Administer Oath)



Annex "A-1"

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Republic of the Philippines
COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

INSTRUCTIONS (Read well before filling up this form)
1. Fill in THREE (3) LEGIBLE copies
File this certificate of candidacy with the Election Officer, COMELEC Office, from September 14, 2007 to September 19, 2007.
2. Titles such as 'Dr.', Atty., Don, Ginoo, Señor, Datu, Hadji, Sultan, Bai, Señora, Kapitan or similar titles are expressly prohibited
3. This certificate shall be sworn before a notary public or any official authorized to administer oath or the Election Officer

CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY
FOR BARANGAY KAGAWAD

I hereby announce my candidacy for the position of BARANGAY KAGAWAD of Barangay ____________, City/Municipality of ____________, Province of ____________ in the October 29, 2007, Barangay and SK elections; and after having been sworn in accordance with law, hereby state the following:

1. FULL NAME ____________ ____________ ____________
(Surname) (First Name) (Maternal Maiden Name)
(Titles such as Dr., Atty., Don, Ginoo, Señor, Datu, Hadji, Sultan, Bai, Señora, Kapitan or similar titles are expressly prohibited.)
2. ONE NICKNAME OR STAGE NAME (by which I am generally or popularly known) ____________
3. DATE OF BIRTH ____________ PLACE OF BIRTH ____________ SEX ____________
4. CIVIL STATUS ______ IF MARRIED, FULL NAME OF SPOUSE ____________ (Maternal Maiden Name)
5. PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION ____________
6. RESIDENCE (Complete/Exact Address) ____________ (House No. Street/Municipality City/Province)
7. PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN THE BARANGAY BEFORE OCTOBER 29, 2007 ___Years and ___ Months.
8. I AM A REGISTERED VOTER OF PRECINCT NO ______, BARANGAY ____________
CITY MUNICIPALITY OF ____________, PROVINCE OF ____________
9. In case of proper substitution, my substitutes are as follows
1.) ____________ 2.) ____________
10. I am a Filipino citizen. I am not a permanent resident of, or immigrant to, a foreign country. I am eligible for the office I seek to be elected. I will support and defend the Constitution of the Philippines, and will maintain true faith and allegiance thereto, that I will obey the laws, legal orders and decrees promulgated by the duly constituted authorities of the Republic of the Philippines; and that I impose this obligation upon myself voluntarily, without mental reservation or purpose of evasion. I hereby certify that the facts stated herein are true and correct of my own personal knowledge.

____________, 2007

(Signature of Candidate)

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this ___ day of ______, 2007 at ____________, affiant exhibiting to me his/her Community Tax Certificate No. ____________ issued on ____________ at ____________.

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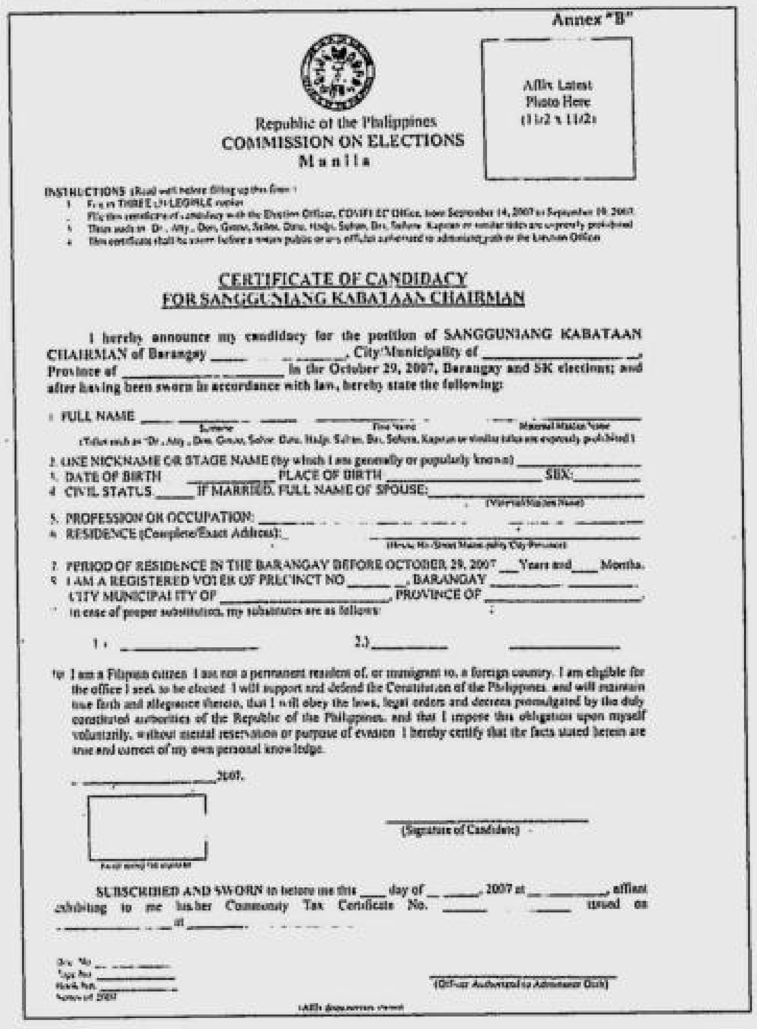

Annex "B"

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Manila

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CERTIFICATE OF CANDIDACY
FOR SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMAN

I hereby announce my candidacy for the position of SANGGUNIANG KABATAAN CHAIRMAN of Barangay ____________, City/Municipality of ____________, Province of ____________ in the October 29, 2007, Barangay and SK elections; and after having been sworn in accordance with law, hereby state the following:

1. FULL NAME ____________ ____________ ____________
(Surname) (First Name) (Maternal Maiden Name)
(Titles such as 'Dr., Atty., Don, Ginoo, Señor, Datu, Hadji, Sultan, Bai, Señora, Kapitan or similar titles are expressly prohibited.)
2. ONE NICKNAME OR STAGE NAME (by which I am generally or popularly known) ____________
3. DATE OF BIRTH ____________ PLACE OF BIRTH ____________ SEX: ____________
4. CIVIL STATUS ______ IF MARRIED, FULL NAME OF SPOUSE: ____________ (Maternal Maiden Name)
5. PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION: ____________
6. RESIDENCE (Complete/Exact Address): ____________ (House No. Street/Municipality City/Province)
7. PERIOD OF RESIDENCE IN THE BARANGAY BEFORE OCTOBER 29, 2007 ___Years and ___ Months.
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CITY MUNICIPALITY OF ____________, PROVINCE OF ____________
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____________, 2007.

(Signature of Candidate)

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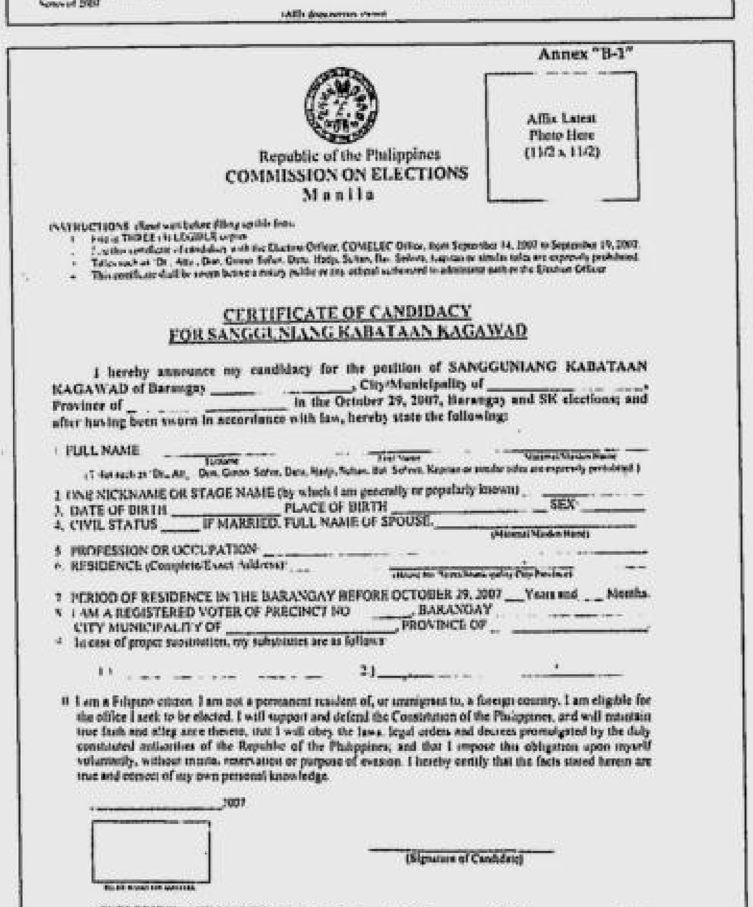
(Officer Authorized to Administer Oath)

(Affix documentary stamp)



Annex "B-1"

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COMMISSION ON ELECTIONS
Manila

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(Surname) (First Name) (Maternal Maiden Name)
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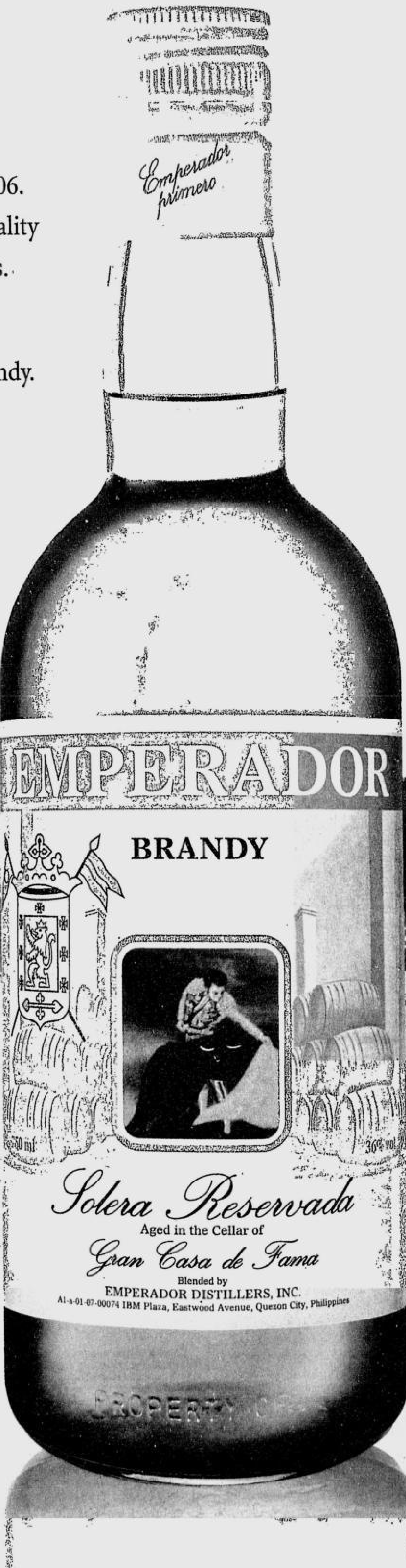
The World's No. 1 Selling Brandy*

Emperador Brandy is in a league all its own.
It ranked as the world's best-selling brandy in 2006.
A supreme testimony to Emperador's premium quality
recognized by the most discriminating drinkers.

Make your every celebration truly grand with
your favorite brandy. The world's No. 1 selling brandy.
Emperador Brandy. A toast to excellence.
And success.


Emperador primero
EMPERADOR
BRANDY
Solera Reservada
Aged in the Cellar of
Gran Casa de Fama
Blended by
EMPERADOR DISTILLERS, INC.
AI-s-01-07-00074 IBM Plaza, Eastwood Avenue, Quezon City, Philippines
PROPERTY

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Drink Moderately

IN THIS ISSUE
■ Wellness should be your motivation /C4

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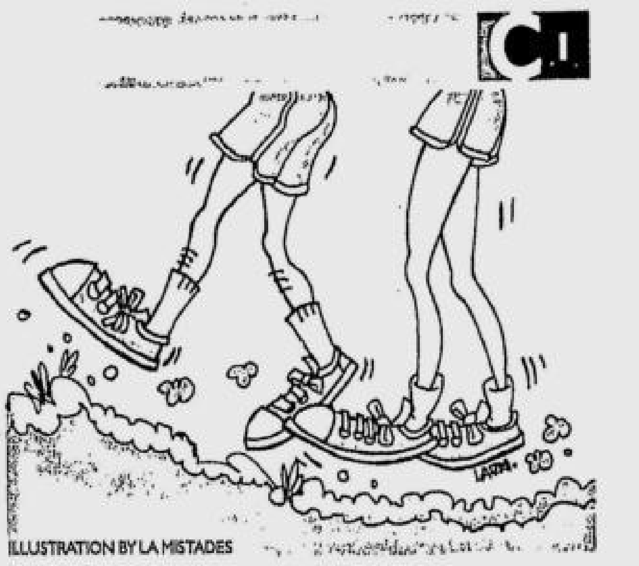


ILLUSTRATION BY LA MISTADES

ILLUSTRATION BY STEPH BRAVO

Flushed with health and well-being

By Linda B. Bolido

> Jeannie Goulbourn's wellness seminar is meant to rid the body of toxins that prevent the gallbladder from functioning at its optimum

LIKE A BUNCH OF mining prospectors, every one checked his/her harvest of stones.

The yields were both fun and dismaying.

Some had fistfuls of stones in different colors while others only had a little more than a tablespoonful. Some got pieces almost as big as golf balls while others had tiny ones, about the size of corn kernels.

It was the morning after an afternoon and night of fasting when the bunch only had raw fruit and vegetable juices followed by very thin slices of green apple to sustain them.

The 30 or so people who gathered stones were participants in one of the My Self-discovery to Well-being seminars of Jeannie M. Goulbourn, fashion designer and healthy lifestyle advocate.

Goulbourn has partnered with Dale Flores, a candidate for master of science in holistic nutrition, in conducting the sessions every two months or so to help people cleanse themselves of toxins accumulated through years of unwise eating—or even simply eating.

Detoxifying

The day and a half weekend session at the Discovery Suites in the Ortigas Center was meant to flush toxins from the gallbladder, which supplies the bile that breaks down fats and oils.

When not completely processed and expelled by the body, these harden into stones that cause not just pain but make a person more vulnerable to diseases by impeding the bile's free flow.

Longer sessions are designed to cleanse the liver, kidneys and other body organs where substances harmful to the body also tend to accumulate.

The weekend started with lectures on health and well-being. Dr. Ricky Soler noted the "medicalization of life." He said every symptom was being treated but "99 percent of medicines do not cure but only hide the symptoms."

Soler advocated what he called "integrative medicine," combining effective and proven therapies from both western and traditional systems.

Yoga teachers Raya Mananquil and Corey Wills demonstrated simple breathing and meditation techniques. Chemist Pinky Tobiano of Qualibet Testing Services stressed the importance of clean and safe water in preventing diseases.

Flores talked about why the food that was meant to nourish the body could also be its downfall. Handouts told participants that gallstones were actually prevalent—some 90 percent of people had them although 80 of those who had did not know of their presence in their bodies.

JEANNIE M. Goulbourn

No symptoms

In about 80 percent of cases, the stones would not manifest symptoms to indicate their existence. Surgery was the most common procedure to remove gallstones.

Like most health problems these days, fats, salt and sugar, staples of most people's diets, are the primary causes of the formation of gallstones.

The flushing session involved fasting from 2 p.m. to 8 a.m. the next day. Participants got the juices at two-hour intervals from 6 to 10 p.m. and 6 and 8 a.m. the next day.

Flushing was meant to, among others, reduce symptoms of gallstones, expel the stones and clear the gallbladder's passages, purify the blood, rejuvenate the body, remove toxins and boost the immune system.

By morning, on or before the last two drinks, people started to see the results of the fasting—their bodies were expelling stones in different sizes and colors like green, yellow, black. The whole process was painless and, except for the fasting and the rather bitter aftertaste of the drinks, devoid of discomfort.

The rich harvest of stones resulting from the short, fun session has drawn people who already knew they had a problem with their gallbladders and would have undergone surgery if they did not discover the alternative process.

During a recent session, a woman came all the way from Germany to continue her flushing. She was already scheduled for an operation to remove the gallstones when she learned about the wellness workshop. That first flush removed much of the problem deposits that her doctor no longer considered surgery an urgent necessity.

She was back to have the remaining few stones removed.

The woman was not the only one to find that the flushing made surgery no longer necessary.

Cris Aquino and Vicky Zubiri are two of those who also skipped surgery.

Goulbourn and Flores have scheduled the next wellness workshop for Sept. 22-23 at Discovery Suites. For information on the seminar, call 8116856 or 0917-8153636.

Walking: Exercise for everyone

By Mitch Felipe
Contributor

WALKING IS THE EASIEST, safest and most natural form of exercise. It is an effective exercise for people of all ages and all levels of health.

Studies have shown that regular, brisk walking can lower cholesterol levels, stimulate circulation, strengthen the heart, and decrease high blood pressure.

It reduces the risk of developing serious health problems like diabetes, osteoporosis (brittle bones), and heart diseases.

Walking strengthens and tones the lower body especially when done on an inclined surface. It increases one's endurance particularly if there is progression of difficulty. It also reduces stress and depression and increases the sense of well-being.

Walking contributes to effective weight control. Numerous studies show that a person who walks 10,000 steps a day can burn 2,000-3,500 (equivalent to one pound of fat) extra calories a week.

For weight loss, it is now recommended to complete 10,000-15,000 steps a day.

Researchers at Duke University Medical Center reported that walking 10-12 miles per week can prevent weight gain, decrease waist size and increase lean body mass of physically inactive people.

According to the book "The Fidget Factor" by Frank and Victor Katch, walking on the job for one hour at less than 3.2 kilometers per hour (slow pace) can burn 108 calories for a 110-pound person, 144 calories for a 150-pounder, and 192 calories for a 203-pounder. This is approximately equivalent to 4,000 steps, 3.2 kilometers.

The heavier the person is and the faster he/she walks, the more calories can be burned in one hour. The number of steps completed would depend on one's stride length.

Lifestyle walking is the most frequently performed type. It is what people do when they get up from bed and move, walk around, or take a stroll in the park.

This kind of walking is low-intensity. It is different from fitness walking that is designed to increase the heart rate and help burn extra calories.

The amount and duration of lifestyle walking that a person does might depend on several factors:

Occupation

A study by the American Council on Exercise examined on-the-job physical activities of 10 common occupations in the United States. Secretaries were shown to walk only an average of 4,327 steps per day (2.7 km) as compared to mail carriers at 18,904 steps (12 km).

Based on lifestyle assessments I conducted, an average Filipino office worker, unaware of lifestyle walking recommendations, can only complete 1,000-4,000 steps/day.

If your job requires you to sit for eight hours, try to insert at least 30 minutes of accumulated or continuous walk within duty hours. You can further increase your walking after work either inside the mall or in your village. Purchase a pedometer to monitor your steps.

Economic status

It is not surprising to find out that some well-off individuals with cars and drivers can just finish up to 1,000 steps/day. The effort to walk more for health has been replaced by convenience. But commuters can have an additional 2,000-5,000 steps a day.

For those living in secure villages, try to walk early morning or at night outside your house and try to complete at least 5,000 steps/day.

Environment

Asians living in countries like Hong Kong and Singapore are known for their flavorful dishes. They love to eat, yet they do not get fat because they love to walk in a walk-friendly environment.

When I had my vacation in Singapore, I was able to complete an average of 24,000 steps/day. Based on my stride length, that is equivalent to 21.8 km/day!

Due to unpredictable weather and physical conditions in our country, I advise mall walking on weekends. For office people working in the Makati area, you can try to use the Ayala walkway.

Did you know that from the Rizal Commercial Banking Corporation plaza to Landmark department store, using the walkway, you can complete 2,500 steps?

Now is the time to explore your location and find the safest and most convenient places to walk.

Intention to lose weight

Usually, a person who is motivated to lose weight will intentionally increase daily target steps. Daily steps can even be doubled once educated about their effect on faster weight loss. But the amount of additional steps will be based on existing exercise programs and target calories to burn per week.

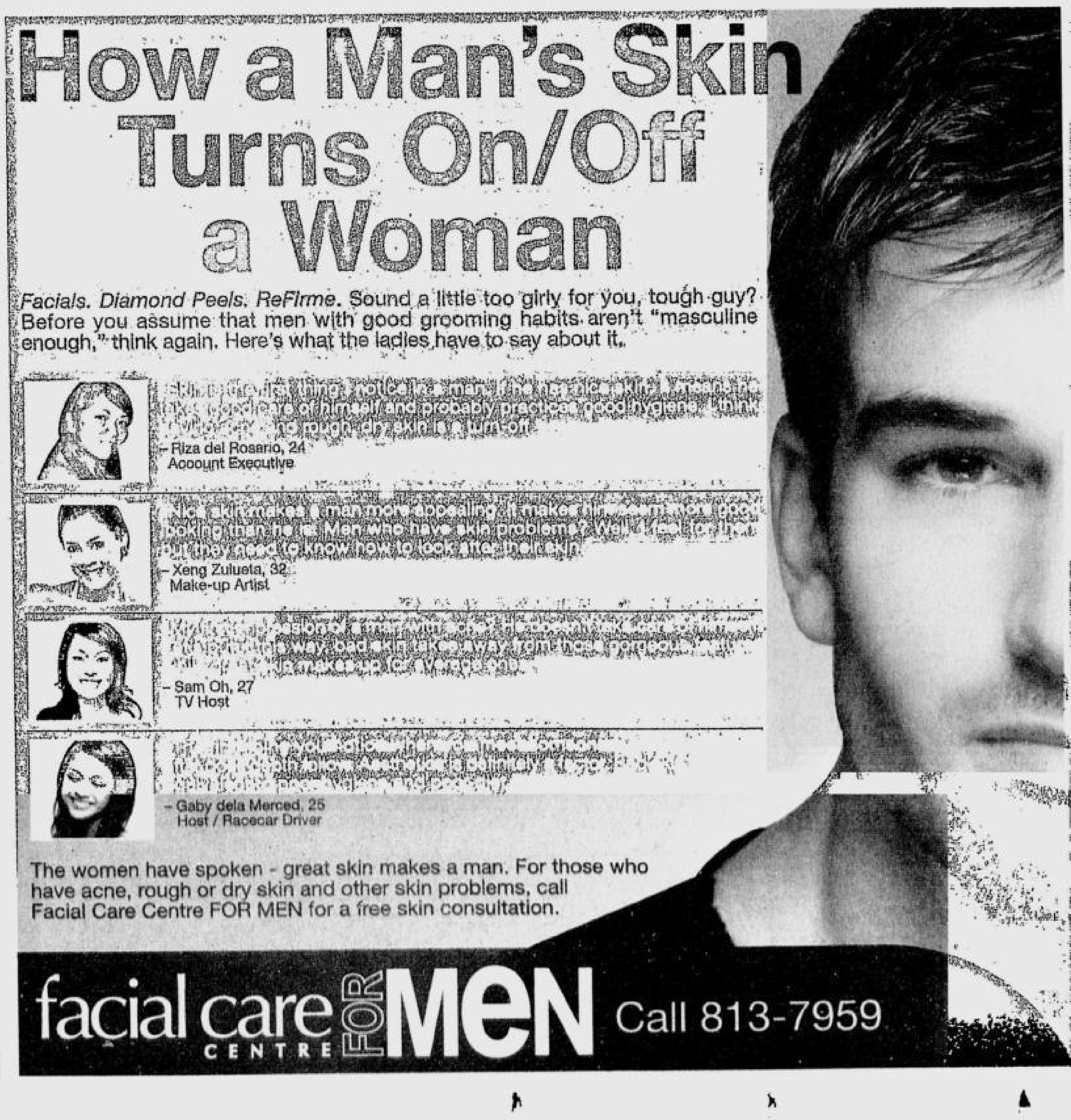
I had a client who lost 20 pounds in three months. He only did 10,000-12,000 steps daily combined with strength training at home twice a week.

Identify your goals and set a target distance or number of steps per day. An accumulated 5,000-8,000 steps during the day is good enough to improve or maintain health.

Its benefits will be more evident if you switch to fitness walking where there is progression in speed, intensity and duration.

You need to walk more to burn more!

E-mail weightworks@yahoo.com



How a Man's Skin Turns On/Off a Woman

Facials. Diamond Peels. ReFirme. Sound a little too girly for you, tough guy? Before you assume that men with good grooming habits aren't "masculine enough," think again. Here's what the ladies have to say about it.

[illegible] care of himself and probably practices good hygiene. [illegible] rough, dry skin is a turn-off.
– Riza del Rosario, 24
Account Executive

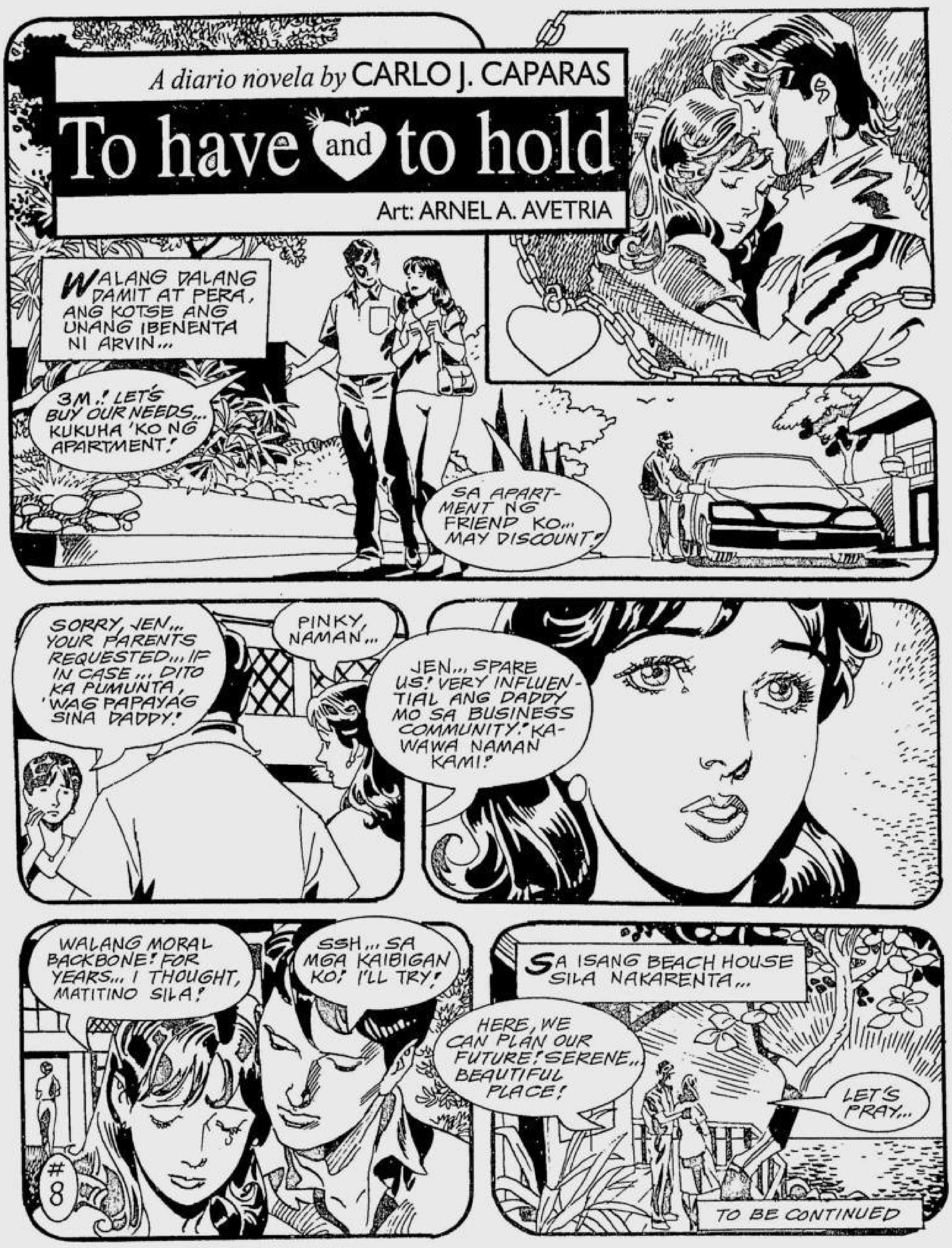
Nice skin makes a man more appealing. It makes him seem more good-looking than he is. Men who have skin problems? Well, [illegible] but they need to know how to look after their skin.
– Xeng Zulueta, 32
Make-up Artist

[illegible]
– Sam Oh, 27
TV Host

[illegible]
– Gaby dela Merced, 25
Host / Racecar Driver

The women have spoken - great skin makes a man. For those who have acne, rough or dry skin and other skin problems, call Facial Care Centre FOR MEN for a free skin consultation.

facial care CENTRE FOR MEN Call 813-7959


A diario novela by CARLO J. CAPARAS
To have and to hold
Art: ARNEL A. AVETRIA
WALANG DALANG DAMIT AT PERA, ANG KOTSE ANG UNANG IBENENTA NI ARVIN...
3M.! LET'S BUY OUR NEEDS... KUKUHA 'KO NG APARTMENT!
SA APARTMENT NG FRIEND KO... MAY DISCOUNT!
SORRY, JEN... YOUR PARENTS REQUESTED... IF IN CASE... DITO KA PUMUNTA, 'WAG PAPAYAG SINA DADDY!
PINKY, NAMAN...
JEN... SPARE US! VERY INFLUENTIAL ANG DADDY MO SA BUSINESS COMMUNITY! KAWAWA NAMAN KAMI!
WALANG MORAL BACKBONE! FOR YEARS... I THOUGHT, MATITINO SILA!
SSH... SA MGA KAIBIGAN KO! I'LL TRY!
#8
SA ISANG BEACH HOUSE SILA NAKARENTA...
HERE, WE CAN PLAN OUR FUTURE! SERENE... BEAUTIFUL PLACE!
LET'S PRAY...
TO BE CONTINUED

DAILY CROSSWORD

1	2	3	■	4	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14			■	15						■	16			
17			18							■	19			
20					■	21			■	22				
23					24			■	25				■	■
■	■	■	26				■	27					28	29
30	31	32				■	33			■	34			
35			■	36		37				38	■	39		
40			41	■	42			■	43		44			
45				46			■	47				■	■	■
■	■	48				■	49					50	51	52
53	54				■	55			■	56				
57				■	58				59					
60				■	61						■	62		
63				■	64						■	65		

By Stanley B. Whitten
Highwood, IL
9/11/07

ACROSS
1 Author Levin
4 Most extensive
10 Swindle
14 Old horse
15 Teamster
16 Skin opening
17 Reds' home base
19 Give off
20 Stage a coup
21 Forensics letters
22 Sporting events
23 Ended in a particular way
25 Capital of Azerbaijan
26 Like red meat?
27 Natural aptitudes
30 Sentence segment
33 Squiggly swimmer
34 Uprising
35 __ Claire, WI
36 Yokel
39 Mineral springs
40 Landon and others
42 Bagged brew
43 Expulsion
45 Churns
47 Cronyn of "Cocoon"
48 Oracle
49 Topper flourishes
53 Decompose
55 __ so fast!
56 Unbelievable buy
57 PC operator
58 House red
60 Author of "Death in Venice"
61 Portuguese port
62 Math letters
63 Places
64 Capital of Poland
65 Notes of scales

DOWN
1 Sustain
2 Rear
3 "__ Del"
4 Injury from an abrupt jerk
5 Golfer Woosnam
6 "Crocodile __"
7 African antelope
8 Stiff hair
9 Corn or pod opener?
10 Orator
11 Red politically
12 Luyendyk of Indy fame
13 Shea Stadium pros
18 Shanks of legs
22 Guy's sweetheart
24 Check grabber
25 Sky-dive over Skye
27 Pipe joint
28 Booze it up
29 "A __ Is Born"
30 Legumes
31 Fit as a fiddle
32 Tinged with red
33 ISS partner
37 Count me in!
38 Pantomime
41 Thomas __ Eliot
44 Old Pac. pact
46 You there!
47 Bigots
49 Pay homage to
50 Sam of "Jurassic Park"
51 Capital of Bangladesh
52 Iditarod vehicles
53 Landfill
54 Genesis twin
55 Palm thatch
58 Golly!
59 "L" regulators

Monday's Puzzle Solved

S	O	A	R	S	■	T	E	C	H	S	■	L	A	G
H	A	R	E	M	■	O	X	E	Y	E	■	I	L	L
I	H	A	V	E	N	O	I	D	E	A	■	B	O	O
N	U	B	I	L	E	■	T	A	N	■	U	R	N	S
■	■	■	E	T	A	L	■	R	A	G	B	A	G	S
B	R	E	W	S	T	E	R	■	S	A	O	■	■	■
A	I	L	■	■	L	A	I	R	■	M	A	S	O	N
I	T	S	A	M	Y	S	T	E	R	Y	T	O	M	E
N	E	E	D	S	■	E	A	S	E	■	■	W	O	W
■	■	■	M	A	C	■	S	O	P	R	A	N	O	S
R	U	B	I	T	I	N	■	D	E	E	P	■	■	■
U	N	I	T	■	G	A	L	■	A	W	A	I	T	S
R	A	P	■	H	A	V	E	N	T	A	C	L	U	E
A	P	E	■	B	R	A	V	O	■	S	H	E	B	A
L	T	D	■	O	S	L	I	N	■	H	E	X	E	R

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9/11/07

CONCEPTIS SU DOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

by Dave Green

4				3				
	8				4	6		
2						1		7
					9		2	
1	9	4				8	3	5
	3		8					
9		6						1
		1	2				5	
				7				9

Difficulty Level ★★
9/11

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Answer to previous puzzle

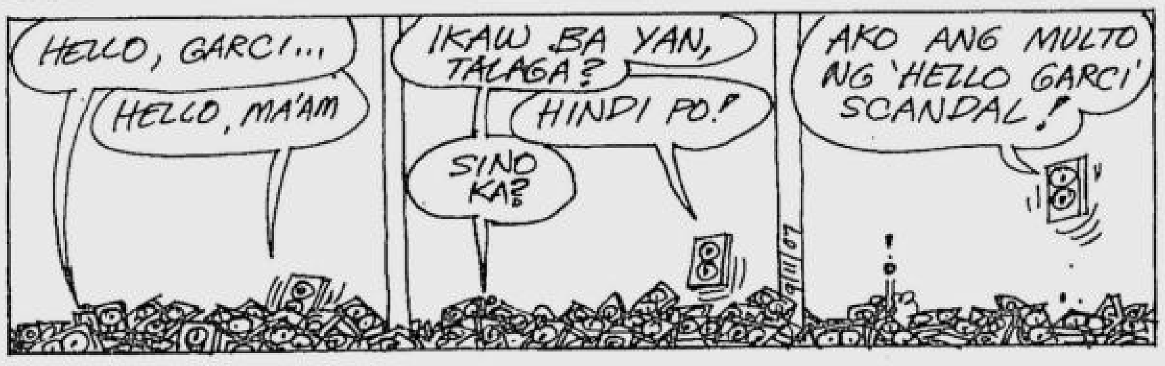
7	1	3	8	2	9	6	4	5
4	6	8	1	7	5	2	3	9
5	9	2	3	6	4	7	8	1
9	8	4	7	3	1	5	6	2
3	7	5	6	4	2	1	9	8
6	2	1	9	5	8	3	7	4
1	4	7	5	9	6	8	2	3
8	3	9	2	1	7	4	5	6
2	5	6	4	8	3	9	1	7

Difficulty Level ★
9/10

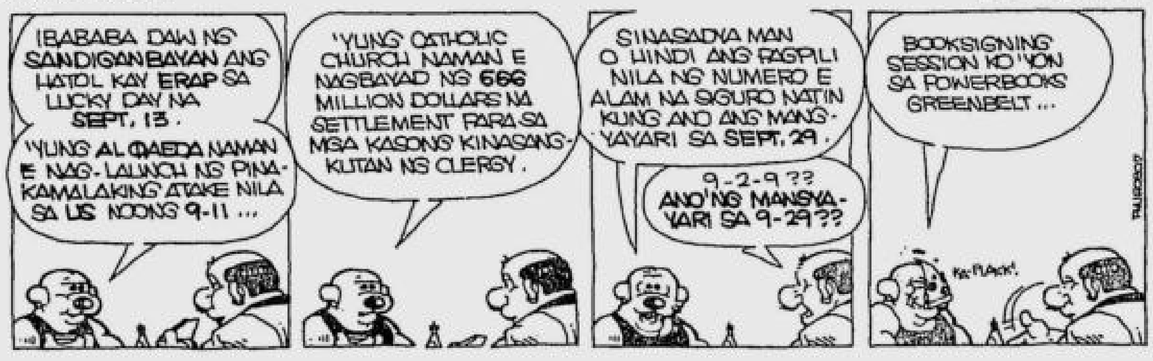
HOW TO PLAY SU DOKU

Fill the grid so that every column, every row and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1 to 9. Tips and program at www.sudoku.com

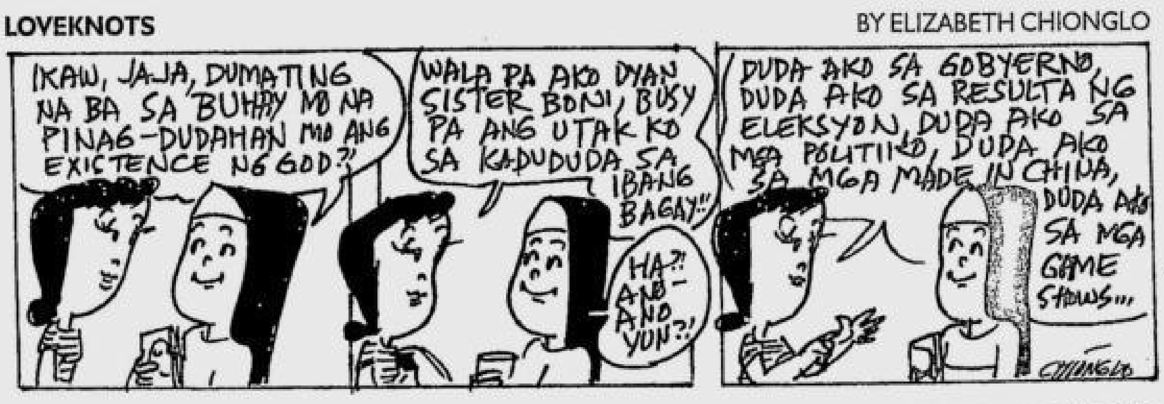
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


HELLO, GARCI...
HELLO, MA'AM
IKAW BA YAN, TALAGA?
SINO KA?
HINDI PO!
AKO ANG MULTO NG 'HELLO GARCI' SCANDAL!
9/11/07

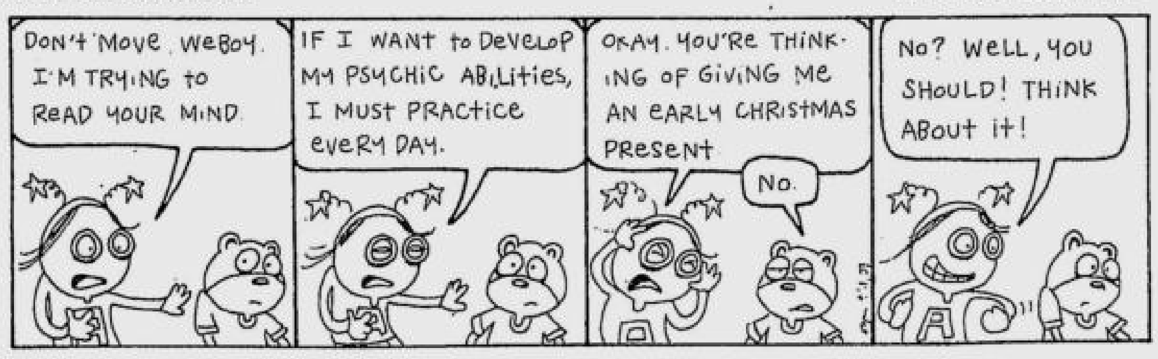
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


IBABABA DAW NG SANDIGANBAYAN ANG HATOL KAY ERAP SA LUCKY DAY NA SEPT. 13.
'YUNG AL QAEDA NAMAN E NAG-LAUNCH NG PINAKAMALAKING ATAKE NILA SA US NOONG 9-11...
'YUNG CATHOLIC CHURCH NAMAN E NAGBAYAD NG 666 MILLION DOLLARS NA SETTLEMENT PARA SA MGA KASONG KINASANGKUTAN NG CLERGY.
SINASADYA MAN O HINDI ANG PAGPILI NILA NG NUMERO E ALAM NA SIGURO NATIN KUNG ANO ANG MANGYAYARI SA SEPT. 29.
9-2-9??
ANO'NG MANGYAYARI SA 9-29??
BOOKSIGNING SESSION KO 'YON SA POWERBOOKS GREENBELT...
KA-PLAK!

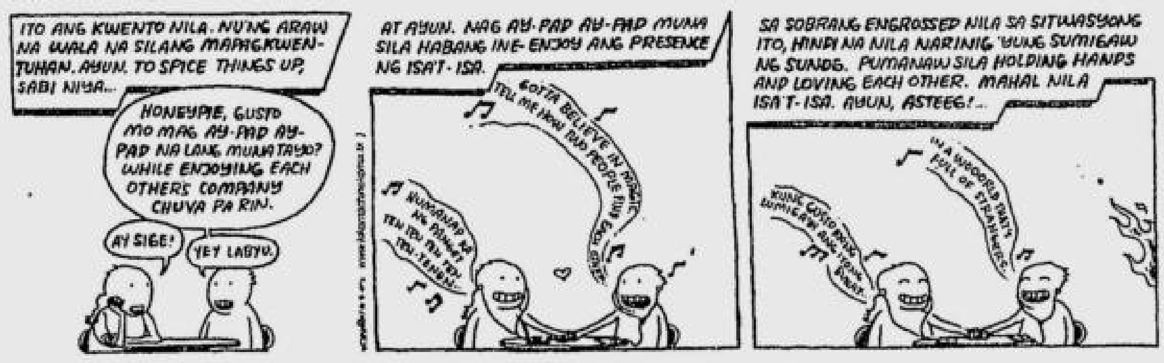
LOVEKNOTS BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


IKAW, JAJA, DUMATING NA BA SA BUHAY MO NA PINAG-DUDAHAN MO ANG EXICTENCE NG GOD?!
WALA PA AKO DYAN SISTER BONI, BUSY PA ANG UTAK KO SA KADUDUDA SA IBANG BAGAY!
HA?! ANO-ANO YUN?!
DUDA AKO SA GOBYERNO, DUDA AKO SA RESULTA NG ELEKSYON, DUDA AKO SA MGA POLITIKO, DUDA AKO SA MGA MADE IN CHINA,
DUDA AKO SA MGA GAME SHOWS...
CHIONGLO

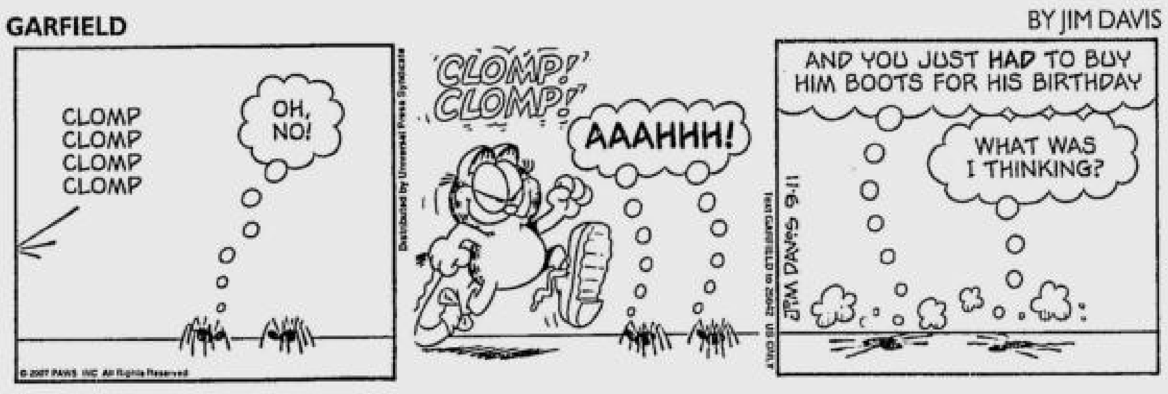
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


Don't Move, WeBoy. I'M TRYING to ReAD YOUR MIND.
IF I WANT to DeVeLoP MY PSYCHIC ABILities, I MUST PRACTiCe eveRY DAY.
OKAY. YOU'Re THINKING of GiViNG Me AN eARLY CHRiStMAS PReSeNt
No.
No? WeLL, YOU SHOULD! THINK ABout it!

KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


ITO ANG KWENTO NILA. NU'NG ARAW NA WALA NA SILANG MAPAGKWENTUHAN. AYUN. TO SPICE THINGS UP, SABI NIYA...
HONEYPIE, GUSTO MO MAG AY-PAD AY-PAD NA LANG MUNA TAYO? WHILE ENJOYING EACH OTHERS COMPANY CHUVA PA RIN.
AY SIGE!
YET LABYU.
AT AYUN. NAG AY-PAD AY-PAD MUNA SILA HABANG INE-ENJOY ANG PRESENCE NG ISA'T-ISA.
GOTTA BELIEVE IN MAGIC
SA SOBRANG ENGROSSED NILA SA SITWASYONG ITO, HINDI NA NILA NARINIG 'YUNG SUMIGAW NG SUNOG. PUMANAW SILA HOLDING HANDS AND LOVING EACH OTHER. MAHAL NILA ISA'T-ISA. AYUN, ASTEEG!...
IN A WORLD THAT'S FULL OF STRANGERS

GARFIELD BY JIM DAVIS


CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP CLOMP
OH, NO!
CLOMP! CLOMP!
AAAHHH!
AND YOU JUST HAD TO BUY HIM BOOTS FOR HIS BIRTHDAY
WHAT WAS I THINKING?
JIM DAVIS 9-11
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HOROSCOPE

YOU BORN TODAY: You easily assume authority. You're well-spoken, hardworking and independent. You like to be in control. You're excellent with details because you're very observant. You're also strongly goal-oriented. Around the age of 11, you became much more interested in relating to others. You will always fight injustice. Your year ahead focuses on friendships and partnerships.

Birthdate of: Harry Connick Jr., singer/actor/humanitarian; Amy Madigan, actress; Virginia Madsen, actress.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19): It's easy to be irritable with others today because the Moon is making a harsh aspect to your ruler, fiery Mars. Zip thy lip!

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): Don't be in a hurry to spend money today. You feel impulsive about financial matters or perhaps about something to do with your possessions. Take it easy.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20): Fiery Mars is in your sign today, making a harsh aspect to the Moon. This phenomenon is short-lived; however, it easily can make you upset over trivial things.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): This is a busy day, and you feel stretched to the limit. Try to take a breather somewhere. You can't be all things to all people all the time.

LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): You might feel annoyed with a friend about money issues or something having to do with your possessions. The thing to know is that these feelings are gone in a few hours! Mellow out.

VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22): The Moon is in your sign today. Avoid upsetting discussions or arguments with bosses, parents, teachers and VIPs. Cool your jets.

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Go off by yourself somewhere if you can find a few minutes. Let your angry feelings subside before you return to the world.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to Nov. 21): Don't get hung up on trivial, little issues with a female friend today. If you do, you'll only make both of you miserable. (This is over by the end of the day.)

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): Be diplomatic and patient with partners and close friends today. For a brief few hours, the stars are conspiring to make you argue or be irritated with each other. Why even go there?

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): At some point today, it's easy to feel irritated with others. However, anger is simply energy. It can be channeled elsewhere. Today you can channel all your frustrations into working hard.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Feb. 18): Parents must be extra-patient with children today. And romantic lovers and partners must be patient with each other. When things go wrong, it will be very brief. So it's no big deal.

PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): So much is going on at home right now. Increased activity and chaos can make you short-tempered. Count to five before you speak.

INNER AWARENESS
Jaime Licauco

Can planet earth still be saved?

Part 2

WE ARE NOW LIVING IN THE end times. Let there be no doubt about that!

We are witnessing the last dying breaths of Mother Earth as she struggles to survive the people's cruelty out of greed and ignorance.

Warnings of great prophets, from Nostradamus to Edgar Cayce, are unheeded. Even chilling statistics on global warming have not moved governments to action. Some officials even consider the warnings to be a great hoax.

The attitude is similar to that of a cancer patient whose first reaction is denial. Action to stem the disease is not taken until it is too late.

Author Hal Lindsay wrote about the end times in his best-selling book "The Late Great Planet Earth." He described the terrible destruction of our planet as revealed in the Apocalypse of St. John. People did not take him seriously.

In agreement

I find intriguing the fact that almost all major prophecies concerning the end times agree that the terrible event will occur sometime in the decade of the year 2000, that means around 2010.

Nostradamus' prophecies stop in the year 2020 if I remember right. Why couldn't he see beyond that? Is it because Earth will be gone by then?

Said John Hogue in his book "The Millennium Book of Prophecy, Visions and Predictions":

"The clearest warnings about the final conflagration come from the Hopi Indians of the American Southwest... they see themselves as custodians of those secrets the Great Spirit gave man to help him establish a harmonious relationship with nature.

"In 1948 the Hopi elders broke their long silent witness of man's pathological treatment of the Earth and shared their prophecies with the outer world. The elders spoke of prior human epochs which rose to great technological heights only to destroy himself. They believe it will happen again unless humans change."

But it may be too late. The Mayan calendar prophecies placed the end of the present Earth cycle at the Winter Solstice of Dec. 21, 2012, only five short years from now.

The pre-Columbian Mayans observed and recorded movements of the heavens for 4,000 years and developed a calendar so accurate that any given day could be ascertained without duplication for 370,000 years.

The Mayans knew that sun spots and solar flares had a direct link to the rise and fall of civilizations on earth.

The significance of the year 2012, according to novelist Benjamin Anastas in a July article in the New York Times Magazine Section, "first entered the public consciousness two decades ago this August with the Harmonic Convergence organized by Jose Arguelles, author of a number of esoteric books about the Mayan cosmos and his telepathically received prophecies."

Earth-changing event

Arguelles organized and promoted the metaphysical significance of the convergence of different planets in our solar system as an earth-changing event requiring 144,000 participants, "the number that echoed Mayan mathematics and the Book of Revelation—to free the planet from the dissonant influence of western science and synchronize with the wave harmonic of history set to culminate in 2012."

Large crowds of people all over the world heeded the call (including myself) and gathered in sacred places like Stonehenge in England, Mt. Shasta in California, Mt. Banahaw in the Philippines, and even Central Park in New York.

I was in Houston, Texas, then and joined several hundred New Agers chanting and swaying at a Houston Park.

What would the post-2012 world be like? According to Arguelles, "It will be a world of universal telepathy. We will be living in a new time, by a 13-month, 28-day synchronometer that will facilitate our telepathy by keeping us in harmony with everything all the time."

Those who have not evolved highly enough will be taken away in "silver ships," presumably unidentified flying objects (UFOs).

Arguelles is now in New Zealand preparing for the transition.

Before the end of the current cycle in 2012, there will be great upheavals, the likes of which have never been seen before. Earthquakes and volcanic eruptions will topple big buildings and sink whole countries and islands.

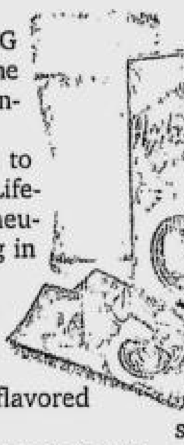
Few places will be safe. Those deserving and have developed a sixth sense or intuition will be told where to go.

In the light of all these seemingly inevitable predictions, what can people do? Let me quote the last paragraph of Hogue's book:

"The key to endless tomorrows is the realization that you, me, all of us, are the problem. Stop running away from the seeds of every human misery. Stop making excuses for the past. Your only home in the cosmos is on fire and every one of us is equally responsible for lighting the match and looking the other way. You are the problem, and you are also the answer. The first step toward saving the world is within."

Note: For information about Inner Mind Development and ESP seminars, call 8107245, 8926806. For Davao seminar on Oct. 1, "Total Wellness" with Cory Quirino and myself, call 0917-8313649.

Orange is the new color of fitness



A NEW BEVERAGE IS CHANGING the color of fitness. Hydrotrim, the new fitness drink, introduces another shade of wellness, orange.

The beverage was brought to the Philippines by Mega Lifesciences Pty. Ltd., a global neutraceutical company operating in over 22 countries.

The company's goal is to offer high-quality healthcare products for wellness. Hydrotrim is the first orange-flavored slimming drink in the market.

"Drink it, trim it—it's that simple," said Hydrotrim brand manager Shirley Jocson. Figure-conscious people can easily and safely reduce fat simply by drinking a glass of Hydrotrim before every meal.

Jocson said the secret to Hydrotrim's slimming properties was its active ingredient, Super Citrimax, a proprietary formulation made in the United States extracted from the fruit Garcinia Cambogia.

The extract, hydroxycitric acid, is a natural organic acid similar to the acid found in citrus fruits like oranges and lemons but with remarkably different properties.

While citric acid is beneficial to the human body by acting as a natural preservative and antioxidant (a substance that fights disease-causing oxygen free radicals), hydroxycitric acid, when mixed with other naturally occurring chemicals in Hydrotrim, burns fat and controls the body's intake of carbohydrates and sugars that are often converted into unsightly flab.

Hydrotrim was proven effective in lowering sugar and carbohydrate cravings, inhibiting the production of fat, increasing the ability to burn fat and boosting the body's metabolic rate, according to Jocson.

Individuals need to consume at least two sachets of Hydrotrim everyday, 30 minutes before every meal. The beverage is available in Mercury outlets and major drugstores (8941111, e-mail hydrotrim.php@megawecare.com).

Your Doctor Knows Best

Florante P. Gonzaga, MD, FACOG, FPOGS, FACS, FPCS

Question:

I am 34 years old and married for 4 years. Aside from having painful menstruation ever since, I noticed that I have pain during intercourse. I still don't have any children at the moment. Do I need to consult a doctor at this point?

Doctor Says...

The symptoms that you are currently experiencing, which are dysmenorrhea (pain during menstruation), dyspareunia (pain during intercourse) and infertility (unable to conceive a child) may be suggestive of endometriosis. Endometriosis is a common and a significant problem in women. It affects approximately 10% of women of reproductive age. Other gynecologic diseases can also manifest with the above symptoms and it is best to consult with your doctor so he/she can explain these to you in detail.

Endometriosis is the growth of tissues resembling the endometrium (lining of the uterus or womb) in locations other than the uterine lining. These tissues are usually found in nearby uterine structures like the ovaries, fallopian tube, pouch of Douglas, bladder, bowel and appendix. The cause of the disease is not clear, but one possible reason is due to retrograde (backward) menstrual bleeding that carries endometrial cells up to the pelvic and abdominal structures. Another theory suggests changes of cells in the said organs to become endometrial cells.

Symptoms can appear as early as the first year of menstruation and the main symptom is pelvic pain that may be constant, or a low backache that occurs before and during menstruation. Other symptoms include pelvic tenderness, irregular menstruation, infertility, general ill health, blood in the urine and painful urination and defecation. These symptoms are not unique to endometriosis. Other gynecologic disorders may have the same presentation. Again, I will encourage you to consult your doctor for evaluation.

Diagnosis of endometriosis is suggested by the symptoms experienced by patients. The definitive diagnosis depends on laparoscopy (a slender, tubular endoscope inserted through a small incision on the abdominal wall to examine or perform a minor surgery within the abdomen or pelvis), which shows various lesions and adhesions, which are characteristics of the disease.

Treatment of endometriosis depends on the severity of symptoms, the patient's desire for fertility, and her age. Options include hormone therapy (suppression of female sex hormone to prevent proliferation of endometrial cells), surgery (removal of involved tissues), or a combination of both. Analgesics are mainstay to alleviate discomfort brought about by the pain that the patient often experiences.

Early detection of endometriosis increases the chances of cure. For proper guidance, evaluation and management, please consult your doctor.

***Dr. Gonzaga** is an Obstetrician/Gynecologist. He is the chairman of the Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, The Medical City. He holds clinics at the Medical Arts Tower MPH of the Medical City.*

This column is supported by AstraZeneca Philippines as part of its disease awareness campaign. This is not intended to replace the advice of a healthcare professional. Always consult your doctor.

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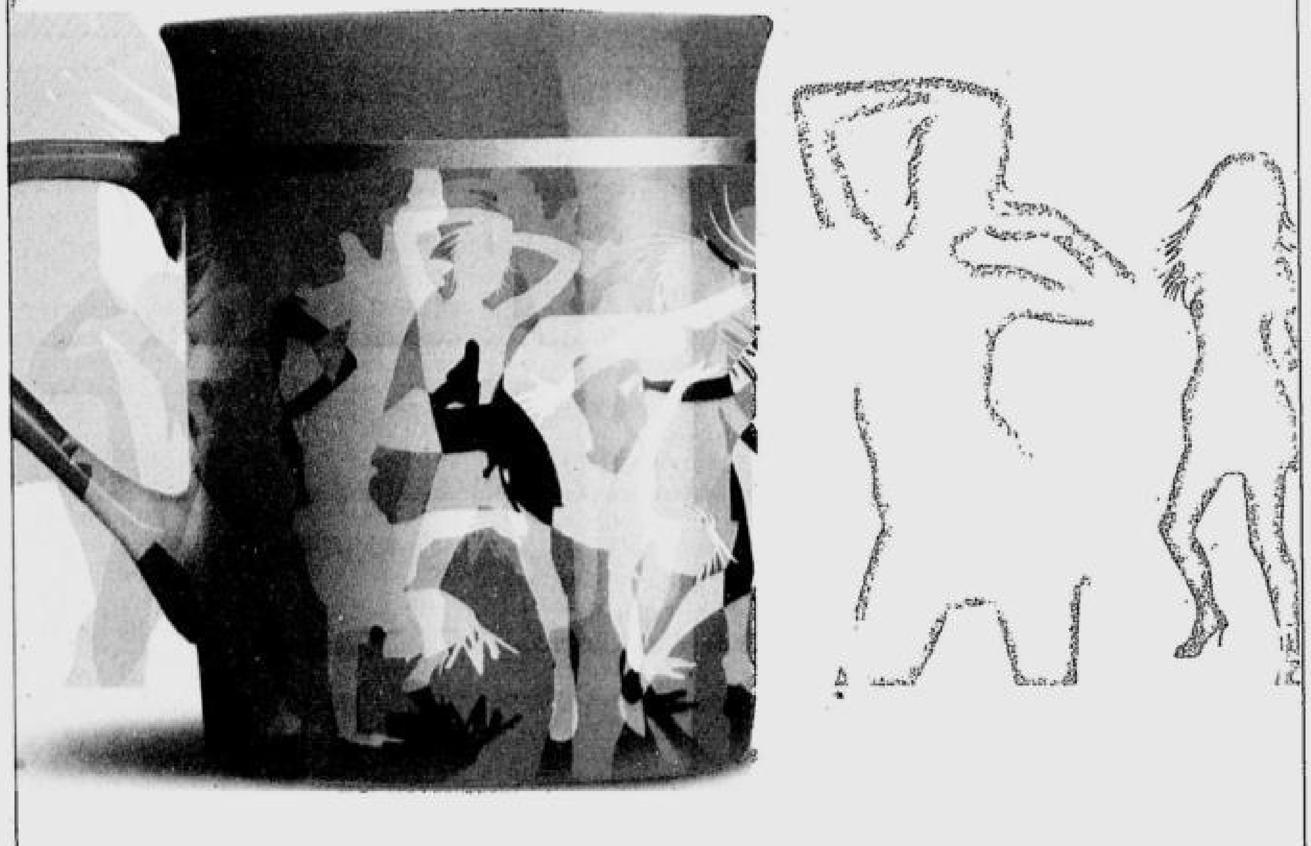
AstraZeneca
cares

A cupful of Healthy Facts

You probably know by now that coffee is a rich source of antioxidants. You see; antioxidants are nature's way of cleaning your system. They prevent oxidation of molecules (just like how iron rusts or apples turn brown), which in turn produce free radicals. Free radicals are bad molecules. Be glad antioxidants are here to neutralize them and help shield our body from their harmful effects. In fact, a cup of coffee has more antioxidants than red wine, green tea, and cocoa.
Make sure you include it in your daily diet. Enjoy coffee and enjoy a healthier life!



Look at coffee in a different way

more on the benefits of coffee and health: www.nescafe.com

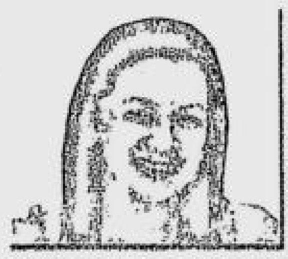
NESCAFÉ

MEDICard The Healthcare I Deserve!

Take Charge Doc!

Is obesity a serious problem? How can we prevent it?

Obesity is a serious problem. It is one of the risk factors for coronary heart disease. It is also a component of the metabolic syndrome. Obesity also makes it more difficult for the blood pressure of a hypertensive individual to be controlled. Obese people have many other medical problems. One of these is a pulmonary problem called the Pickwickian syndrome. Persons with this medical problem often have asthma-like symptoms and experience easy fatigability and shortness of breath even when doing only light physical activities. Arthritis of the knees is another common condition among obese individuals. The knees are weight-bearing joints and in an obese person, the knees are usually the first joints affected because of the heavy weight that they must carry. Prevention for obesity must start during childhood. Children should be taught to refrain from fatty foods, to eat in moderation and to eat the right kind of foods. A fat child is not necessarily a healthy child. Another way to prevent obesity is to exercise daily. If this is not feasible, at least 5 times a week for at least 30 minutes of walking is a good way to start.



This week's answer to our feature question is provided by our accredited Cardiologist in Vigan City, Dr. Gloria Lahoz-Rivada. Known to her colleagues as Dra. Gigi, she's been in practice for 15 years now. A medicine graduate of University of the Philippines. She is the current President of the Philippine Heart Association / Philippine College of Cardiology (Northern Luzon Chapter) and the Foundation for Lay Education on on Heart Disease (Ilocos Sur Chapter). She is also affiliated with several Medical Organizations namely the Philippine College of Physicians, The Philippine Society of Hypertension and The Philippine Society of Echocardiography. Aware of the risk of coronary heart disease, Dra. Gigi keeps her heart healthy by playing tennis during her free time. MEDICard members may visit her for consultations at our newly accredited hospital, Lahoz Clinic & Hospital every Monday, Tuesday Wednesday, Friday and Saturday 9 to 12 noon and every Thursday 2-4 in the afternoon.

Nicky

MEDICard's Medical Director, Dr. Nicky Montoya answers questions on health through the assistance and expertise of MEDICard's network of accredited specialists. Write to Dr. Nicky or E-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com for your inquiries on health matters.

MEDICard [illegible]

KARL Puzon

PHILIP Cu-unjieng and Donnie Ramirez

NANETTE Bonifacio, Carla Ludovico and Diana Uichanco

KRISTINE Tabata, Anna Villar, Jing Lejano and Bubbles Santos

How model mom babies her baby

WITHOUT BATTING AN EYELASH

Maurice Arcache

Photos by Alex Van Hagen using **Kodak** EasyShare system

SHE'S A YOUNG, VIVACIOUS GAL known for her free spirit and her love for life. Now she is also getting recognition for her mothering skills, *palanggas*.

Her latest role is as Nivea's ambassador for healthy baby skin, giving face to the world skincare expert's newest baby, Nivea Baby.

Yes, dahlings, I'm talking about my favorite traffic stopper, **Tessa Prieto-Valdez**, no less.

Tessa's favorite role is being mother to her four children and staunch advocate of proper infant care, *palanggas*. She was named by the Department of Health as "Idol ng Breastfeeding 2007" for its breastfeeding campaign.

"Most of us know Tessa for her glitz and glamour. But what many don't know is that Tessa is also a hands-on mom... That's why she was the perfect choice to be Nivea Baby's ambassador for healthy skin. Tessa personifies our latest product, the Nivea Baby mom, who demands only the best [for] her children," said cyber-smart and mega-achiever **Rica King**, Nivea's hot executive, marketing director at an intimate lunch at Le Soufflé in The Fort.

The event was also attended by Nivea group brand manager **Ida Dizon** and Nivea Baby brand manager **Jackie de Vera**.

When Tessa made her grand entrance with her cutie-pie 2-year-young daughter **Athena**, everyone went gaga. Top photographer **Alex van Hagen** clicked away to catch Athena in her most *charmante*, *palanggas*.

"I've been an avid Nivea user for years. I first fell in love with the brand when I discovered Nivea Q10 in Spain which really gave me all the qualities I was looking for in a skincare product," Tessa said.

"I'm also very particular with the products I use for my children, especially for Athena because her skin is sensitive. That's why I love Nivea Baby, because it's mild, gentle and contains natural minerals to keep Athena's skin healthy," added the enthusiastic Tessa PV.

The fab new Nivea Baby has a complete range of fantastic, must-have products containing clinically proven natural minerals and developed in close collaboration with pediatricians and dermatologists.

Okay, all you moms, run and grab the fantastic Nivea Baby products. After all, dahlings, Nivea is the "world's No. 1 skincare expert", *n'est-ce pas* (as in, *di bala*)?

TATS Manahan's avant-garde **X5** series

JORGE Yulo and his model of the 5 series

CAR lovers Henry and Judy So

RICA King, Nivea marketing director; Jackie de Vera, Nivea Baby brand manager; Nivea's newest cutie-pie, baby Athena, and her mother Nivea ambassador Tessa Prieto-Valdes; and Ida Dizon, group brand manager

Open house

The sun was out that Sunday when the old-wealth and low-profile Yulo *famille* opened their gorgeous sprawling home to close pals and other guests so they can experience life in Montecito in Canlubang, Laguna.

Moi was told "Montecito is the Yulos' residential development... set up in the area which used to be a huge coconut plantation that has this awesome view of Mt. Makiling and Mt. Banahaw."

The day was a treat for body and mind, with the guests enjoying **Gaita Araneta Fores'** exquisite food and other yummies like the Canlubang *lechon* and **Nena Yulo**'s all-time favorite chicken *inasal* that had everyone going back for seconds.

The University of Santo Tomas' Conservatory of Music string ensemble played soothing music, *palanggas*.

The mind was stimulated by Qi Gong and Raja Yoga meditation conducted by **Timmy Cruz**, no less. Yes, dahlings, she's back with a new album called "Uptimmystic."

The spirit was also uplifted by the company of the gracious hosts, **Tiling** and **Nena Yulo**, *naturellement*. Only daughter **Maia** made new friends and met pals from way back who got a tour of the sprawling estate that looked like a huge garden, with geese swimming in a lake.

The fun invitees included, the three *amigas*, **Marivic Madrigal Vasquez**, **Karen Santos** and **Mia Borromeo**, editor of soon-to-be-launched "Town & Country," no less; fashionable jeweler **Jul Dizon** with her hubby **Cenen D.**; super pals of the Yulo's **OV** and **Marilen Espiritu**; renowned international architect **Jun Palafox**'s wife **Wilma** and her daughter; BPI's **Gigi** and **Ging Montinola**; talented interior designer **Ivy Almario** and **Yong Nieva**; businessman **Douglas Ramsey** and his wife, vivacious **Carla R**; **Cesar** and **Bambina Buenaventura**, who actually live in Montecito; always dapper **Basil Ong**; **Toti Villalon**; **Nonoy** and **Kathy Yulo**; Nokia's popular and *tres charmant* couple, brilliant **William Hamilton-Whyte** and adorable **Angelique Repapis**; and **Annie Ringor** of Bridges@Com.

Needless to say, *palanggas*, the other wonderful Yulos—**Louie**, **Raffy** and **Dang**, **Amos** and eye-catching **Elvira**—helped entertain guests.

Some ladies got free massages courtesy of physical therapists brought by Sister **Gloria** of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary.

For more info, call Annie D. Ringor at Bridges@com at 8640294 or 0918-9054183, or e-mail annieringor@bridgespr.net. Visit Montecito Properties, Inc., at San Jose Drive, Barangay Canlubang, Calamba, Laguna, call 67005568, e-mail montecito@belltel.com.ph or visit www.montecito.com.ph.

WINCHELLE Nacague and Michelle Chua

MOI and Manila Times' Ricky Gallardo

GRACIOUS hosts of the fun affair, Nena and Tiling Yulo, and their daughter, designer Maia La'O

AMOS and Elvira Yulo. Seated: Martin Gomez and Teresa Yulo Gomez

Miniature cars

Wow! *Moi* couldn't believe how the sleek big toys that big boys love were turned into a fab collection of intricate scale models. BMW cars were transformed into eye-catching masterpieces by eight of the country's hotshot creative minds: 1 Series by **Tes Pasola**; 3 Series by **Kenneth Cobonpue**; 5 Series by **Jorge Yulo**; 6 Series by **Ramon Orlina**; 7 Series by **IP Santos**; Z4 by **Ivan Acuña**; X3 by **Johnny Hubilla**; and the X5 by **Tats Manahan**.

Now, *palanggas*, if that ain't namedropping what is, *n'est-ce pas* (as in, *di bala*)?

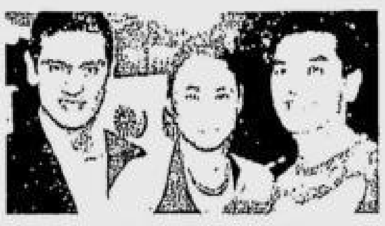
BMW, in cooperation with BluPrint Magazine and Lifestyle Asia, unveiled the BMW Philippine Miniature Art Cars at Bonifacio High Street, specifically in its chic Pavilion, an awesome, luxurious, fully equipped air-conditioned tent built solely for BMW activities, dahlings.

Check out the eight masterpieces at authorized BMW dealers like Autozentrum BMW (Alabang), Prestige Cars BMW (Makati), Autohaus BMW (Quezon City), Premier Cars BMW (Pampanga) and Performance Auto BMW (Cebu), and the malls in Alabang and Rockwell.

BMW's hotshot Andreas Biehler and mega businessman Emerson Yao who adores big toys

BMW'S first lady, Min-Kyung Biehler; renowned architects Paolo Alcazaren and Ramon Orlina

BMW'S Lito German and Lifestyle Asia's Sari Yap


DOJI and Cathy Ferrer, with Perry Ferrer

Get moving or else...

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

YOU HAVE HEARD THIS SAYING too often: "If you don't use it, you'll lose it."

This goes for every single aspect of who you are and what you are. In short, if you do not want to move or make a move in your life you will stagnate.

Getting stuck

Bad habits die hard, many claim. But this is only because there is a lack of motivation in one's life.

So, if your lifestyle contributes to your ever worsening health and well-being, wouldn't the thought of illness be motivation enough?

Get moving or else

One of the integral support groups of our immune system is the lymph network. The human body has 400-700 lymph nodes, of which 70 percent are deep in the abdominal area. The rest are found in the neck.

Lymph nodes, ranging in size from a pin head to an olive, act like filters, purifying and screening fluids that run through our entire body, ridding them of bacteria, viruses and other impurities before they are reabsorbed by the body and returned to the blood stream.

The lymph system does not have any means to travel through the body. The only way to get it going is by moving the body, through muscular contractions beneath the skin. Therefore, the message is clear: "Get moving or get sick."

Take the case of edema, or swelling of parts of the body. When this occurs, it is because there is too much water drawn by proteins into the system.

This only means that your lymph system is slow and needs to be drained.

Flush it out

Enter lymphatic drainage therapy. In 1936, Dr. Emil Vodder, who introduced manual lymph drainage through the use of physical manipulation, pressure, body contact and skin stretching, staged "Paris, a Health and Beauty Exhibition."

He demonstrated the benefits of his approach in improving a person's health. The idea was to empty the lymph capillaries so that new and fresh fluid could replace what was stale and old.

The benefits of lymphatic drainage through massage therapy include: detoxification of the body; pain and swelling reduction; relief of allergy, sinus/respiratory problems and migraine; prevention of breast and prostate ailments; glowing/radiant skin; reduction of wrinkles and cellulite; and improvement of uneven skin.

Simple remedies

Things you can do in a relaxed manner that will not impose on your regular regimen:

1. Jump out of bed. Or at least get up with energy and enthusiasm.

2. If you can do something yourself, do not ask somebody else to do it for you (examples: getting a cup of coffee/glass of water, picking up litter on the floor, carrying your own attaché case/papers).

3. Take the stairs, not the elevator. You heart will benefit from it, too.

4. Include weight-bearing exercises to your gym program.

5. Dance, run, jump, walk briskly.

6. Drink 10-12 glasses of clear, clean water.

Detox at home

Where deep-tissue and Swedish massages cannot go, lymphatic massage can penetrate. With well-trained therapists, you can enjoy the goodness of massage with the medicinal touch of lymphatic therapy, says Dr. Eric Tan, director of Beyond Medi-Spa at Delos Santos Medical (tel. 7230041 loc. 294) and Orange Home Spa (7237714).

Bright mornings

To make your morning look perfect, try this easy routine. If you wake up in the morning with puffy eyes, gently stroke your eye bags with your two fingers, index and middle. Massage across your eye bags from the nose area to the sides of your face. Watch the puffiness go away.

Today's affirmation

"I drive out the bad to allow the good in."

Love and light!

Celebrate Life with Cory Quirino at 2 p.m., Sept. 16, at SM South Mall. Admission is free.

ENTERTAINM

Editor **Emmie G. Velarde**

sms feedback: Inquirer ent name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) and 283 (Smart) **or email us at** entertainment@inquirer.com.ph

Websit

LEA SALONGA

Lea's wake-up call for show folks

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

WHEN I CAME ACROSS THE BLOG OF **LEA Salonga** entitled "Showbizzzzzz," (http://bigsis222.multiply.com/journal/item/82), I could not resist asking her permission to share it with you, dear readers. Luckily, Lea agreed.

May it serve as a wake-up call to some show biz folks who thrive on inane controversies. Although intrigues and scandals come with the territory, celebs should not exhaust all means just to generate publicity. If there's anything that perishes in an overkill, it's the public's adulation.

Here goes, from Lea to ... *them*:

"I don't think anyone has the right to intrude in your life, but they do. I would like people to separate the actress and the woman."—Ingrid Bergman

"Obviously the late Ms Bergman has never seen the likes of Philippine show business... how colorful, intrigue-laden and downright ridiculous it can be.

"I've been in this business for nearly 30 years, if you can believe that. I started as a wee little girl in the ensemble of a musical and it kept going from there. My world was the theater and the adults I emulated were those from the theater. I was not much of a movie fan, and wasn't really into what was happening in that world. But, I did enter the more mainstream areas of the business, including film, TV and music. And ... and ... well ...

"I know that things that happen in our world get blown up and multiplied many times over, simply because we're in the public eye, and thus are open to public scrutiny and criticism. It's human nature for people on the outside to want to peer into our fishbowl and watch us swim. I've grown used to it by now although, I must admit, when I'm having a bad day, it takes a while for a smile to come to my face.

Dirty laundry

"As a person from show business, I accept that the public at large will be curious and want to know about what happens in private. But what I don't appreciate is when people from show business inflict their private lives upon the rest of the world. Their scandals, their dirty laundry—the things in their world that no one else has the right to know. It's one thing when you're found out; it's another thing altogether when there's an onslaught of way too much information from an actor or a singer or a TV host. Heck, I feel violated when bombarded with stuff I didn't want to hear or see.

"Yeah, show biz is a place that the faint of heart must steer clear of. It isn't for the onion-skinned or the garden variety cry baby. But I'd like to think that neither is it for those who are so starved for attention that every single family fight, every affair gone bad, every shabu pipe counted is plunked on our collective lap. Hopefully, it's for those who want the attention based on the quality of their work and not on the darker, shadier sides of their private lives. I'm a show biz fan, too, and I really don't care to hear about a colleague's dirty laundry. It's none of my business, and I like keeping it that way.

"Am I being an idealist? I do know that tawdry news sells magazines and makes the rounds of the gossip shows faster than a speeding bullet. But still ..."

Morning tryst

A separated actor went out drinking with the hubby of a beauty queen-actress. It could have been just a typical boys' night out, until the actor's ex-GF-actress came by at around 5:30 a.m. Her driver dropped her off at the bar.

She left with the actor and the beauty queen's husband. Maybe it was just a spur-of-the-moment breakfast date or are they on the verge of a reconciliation? Will their early morning tryst cause the "mourning" of the actor's current GF if and when the ex-lovers get back together?

Jolina's condo

Jolina Magdangal's condotel in the heart of Quezon City is up for sale (P8.5 million, negotiable). It has four floors with an open garage for two cars and is fully furnished (320 square meters, clean title). Call 09189185299 for inquiries. Jolens is one of the few celebs who has invested not just her money but her time, talent and emotions well.

Marvin's resto

Marvin Agustin is enjoying student life in Somerset International School. He's also raring to open his third resto, "John & Yoko" in Greenbelt 5, and shoot a TV ad.

E-mail wateringholeshangrila@yahoo.com.

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Rufa Mae unleashes inner canine as Fifi

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

RUFA MAE QUINTO

WHO LET THE DOGS out? Comedienne Rufa Mae Quinto is unleashing her inner canine on "Marimar," lending her voice to Fifi, the black poodle of *contravida* Angelika (played by Katrina Halili).

According to Rufa Mae, Fifi could be the future partner of Marimar's pet Golden Retriever, Fulgoso, voiced by her "Bubble Gang" co-star, Michael V.

"As of now, we're enemies on the show," she explains. "Fifi is *maarte* (finicky)."

When the role was first offered to her, Rufa Mae says, she consulted Michael. "We agreed that it was new and challenging for both of us. Tita Wilma [Galvante, GMA 7 senior vice president for Entertainment TV] personally called me about it. Who am I to pass up the opportunity of being the *ka*-love team of Michael?"

Rufa Mae dubs for Fifi once a week. "Marimar" is her fourth Kapuso program—along with the musical-variety "SOP," the gag show "Bubble Gang," and the gabfest "Showbiz Central."

"For its anniversary, we are doing 'Bubble Gang the Movie,' for airing next month," she announces. "The way Direk Uro [de la Cruz] explained it to us, it's as if we are doing a movie."

She considers her work on "Showbiz Central," where she is a jury member along with Mo Twister, as the most challenging, especially since she often ends up being involved in controversies.

Being an actress herself, she understands the guests' predicament. "It's really up to them if they want to open up."

Recently, Rufa Mae managed to make Sen. Bong Revilla answer ticklish questions on their rumored romance. "It was good to face the issue, once and for all," she relates.

The question: Which actresses made Lani Mercado, Bong's wife, jealous?

Bong's answer: Rufa Mae and Gretchen Barretto.

On top of her TV shows, Rufa Mae is wrapping up work on three movies: Viva's "Apat Dapat, Dapat Apat," Octo Arts' "Pasukob" and Regal's "Desperadas."

She says work allows her to momentarily forget her troubles, particularly after having been victimized by a thief in her own home recently. She lost about P2 million in jewelry and gadgets (watches, laptop, iPod).

To make matters worse, her mom was implicated in the robbery by anonymous text messages.

"At first, I was shocked. Then, I got upset. But more than anything else, I was hurt because no matter what they say, she's my mother," Rufa Mae explains.

She says that she plans to talk to her mom who is currently out of town.

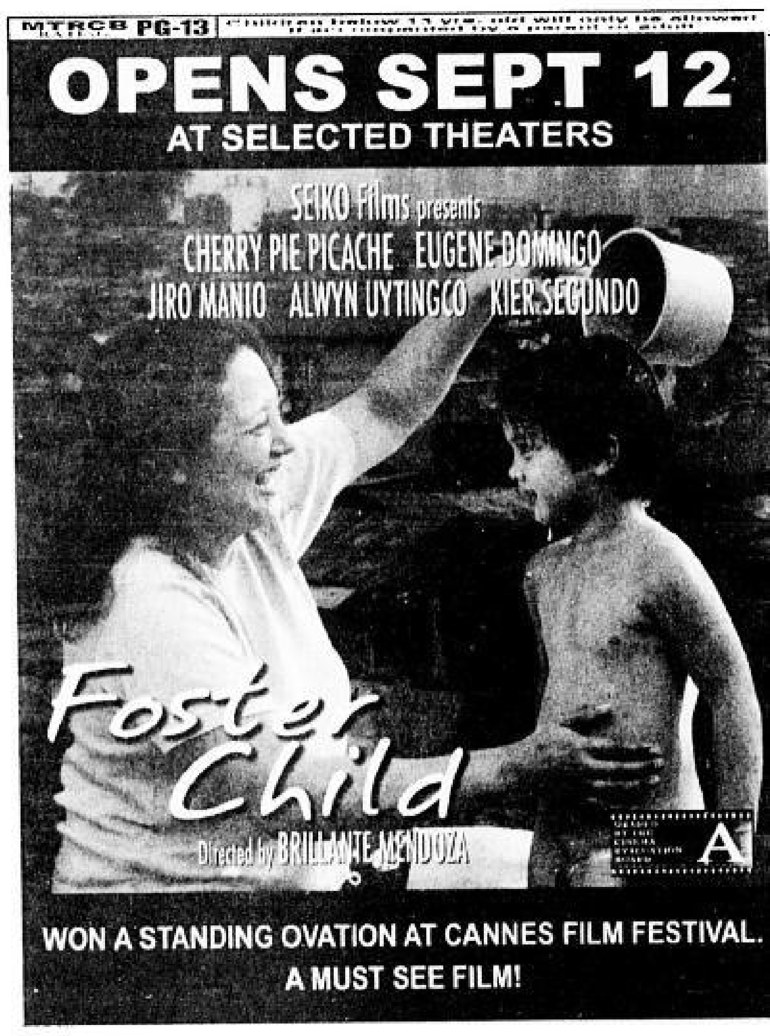
"I'm close to my mom," she insists.

She describes the incident as "traumatic."

"I cried for three days straight," she recalls. "It was good that we had a shoot in Hong Kong for 'Apat Dapat.' The change of scenery helped. My co-stars were also there to offer emotional support."

Needless to say, she has hit it off with her "Apat" co-stars. "It's my first time to work with them because they're all from ABS-CBN. They always make me laugh on the set."

Rufa Mae heads On-Q28, which co-produced "Apat Dapat" with Viva Films.



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LAST LEGION 2:35 7:15 1408 12:15 4:55 9:50	SKINWALKERS 1:10 / 3:20 / 5:30 / 7:40 / 9:50	..CHUCK & LARRY 12:30 / 2:50 / 5:10 / 7:30 / 9:50	
THE INVASION 1:10 / 5:30 9:50 EVAN ALMIGHTY 3:20 7:40	WAITRESS 1:50 / 4:30 / 7:10 / 9:50	A LOVE STORY 1:40 / 4:20 / 7:00 / 9:40	DISTURBIA 4:45 9:00 NANCY DREW 2:40 6:50

ALIMALL 5

1	DISTURBIA 12:10 R3 / 1:40 / 3:50 / 6:00 / 8:10	2	RUSH HOUR 3 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45	3	NANCY DREW 11:50 / 2:05 / 4:20 / 6:35 / 8:40
4	A LOVE STORY 12:20 / 3:00 / 5:40 / 8:20	5	SKINWALKERS 12:05 / 2:15 / 4:25 / 6:35 / 8:45		DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

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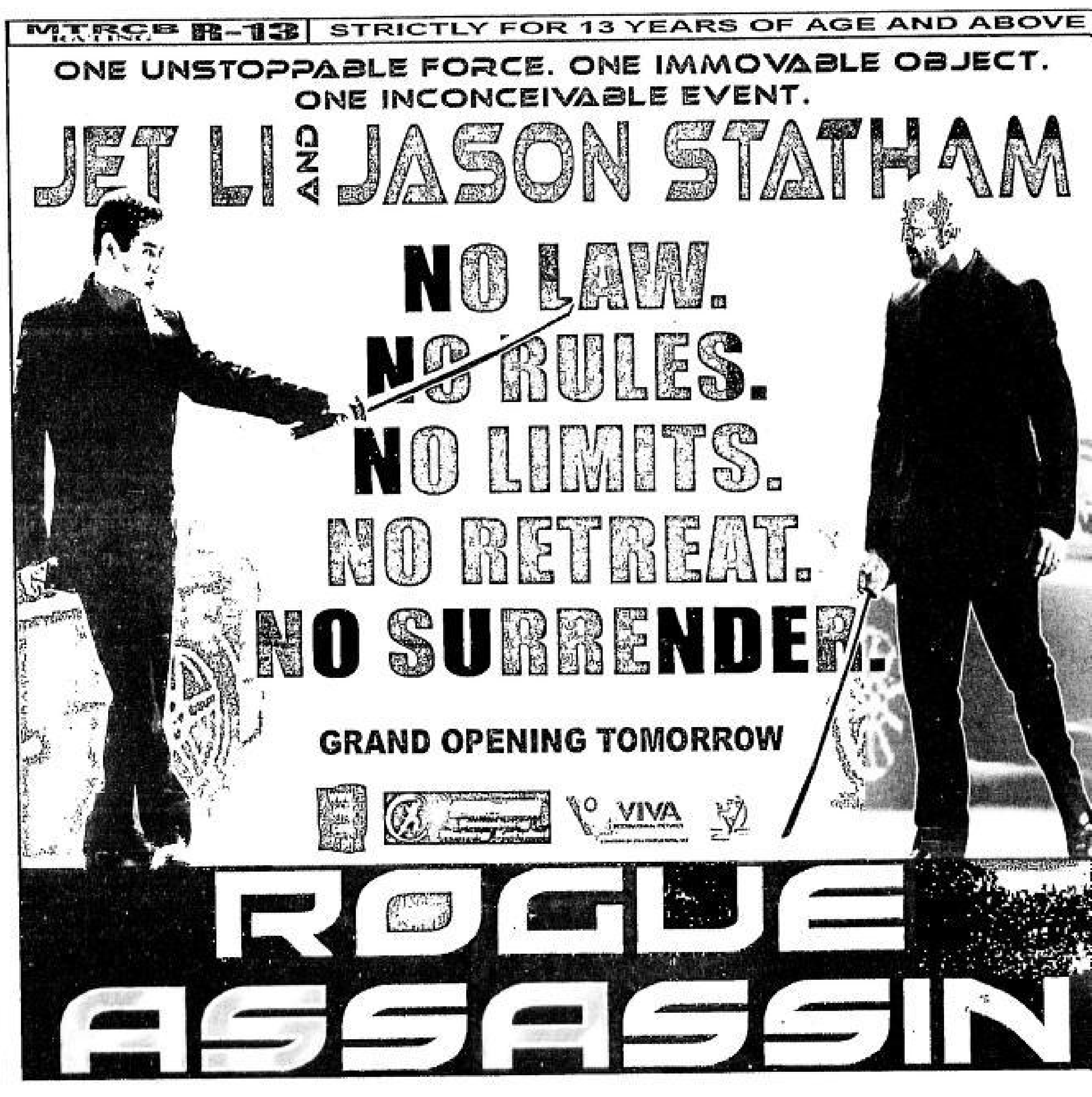

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Jodie Foster finds her inner killer

TORONTO—IN REAL LIFE, TWO-TIME OSCAR WINNER JODIE FOSTER IS A MOTHER and a fierce gun control advocate. But in her latest movie, she plays a stone-cold vengeance killer and admits she finds it oddly appealing. Holding and shooting a gun—even in a movie—she told Reuters on Friday, "gives you the power to say, 'I live, you die,' and that is horrifyingly satisfying."

Reuters

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1 THE INVASION • THX
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 9:50

2 DISTURBIA
12:40 3:00 5:20 7:40 10:00

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12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00

4 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY
12:20 2:45 5:10 7:35 10:00

5 NANCY DREW
1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
12:30 2:30 4:30

7 SKINWALKERS
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8 A LOVE STORY
12:45 3:00 5:15 7:30 9:45

9 NANCY DREW
11:00 1:10 3:20 5:30 7:40 9:50

10 1408
1:00 3:15 5:30 7:45 10:00

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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY Sneak Preview

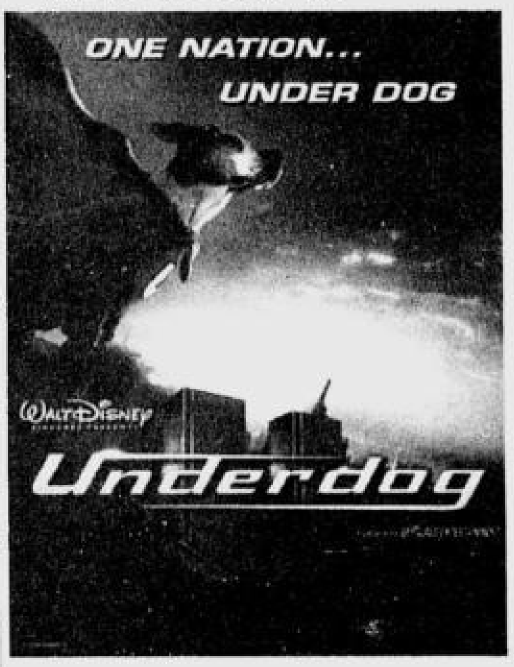
3 1408
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

4 NANCY DREW
12:00 2:00 4:00 6:00 8:00 10:00

5 A LOVE STORY
12:30 2:50 5:10 7:30 10:00

6 DAY WATCH
11:20 2:00 4:40 7:20 10:00

7 SKINWALKERS
12:20 2:20 4:20 6:20 8:25 10:00



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12:10 2:25 4:40 6:55 9:10

3 SKINWALKERS
11:10 1:40 4:10 6:40 9:10

4 1408
11:30 1:55 4:20 6:45 9:10

5 RUSH HOUR 3
12:50 2:50 4:50 6:50 9:00

6 THE INVASION
12:30 2:40 4:50 7:00 9:00

7 DISTURBIA
11:05 1:35 4:05 6:35 9:05

8 NANCY DREW
1:50 4:15 6:40 9:05

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4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY

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1 NANCY DREW
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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY Sneak Preview

3 SKINWALKERS
1:30 3:50 6:10 8:30

4 DAY WATCH
12:25 3:10 6:55 8:40

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2 CASA
3 THREE
4 THE INVASION

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2 A LOVE STORY
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4 RISE

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3 THREE
4 1408

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3 THREE
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3 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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5 CASA
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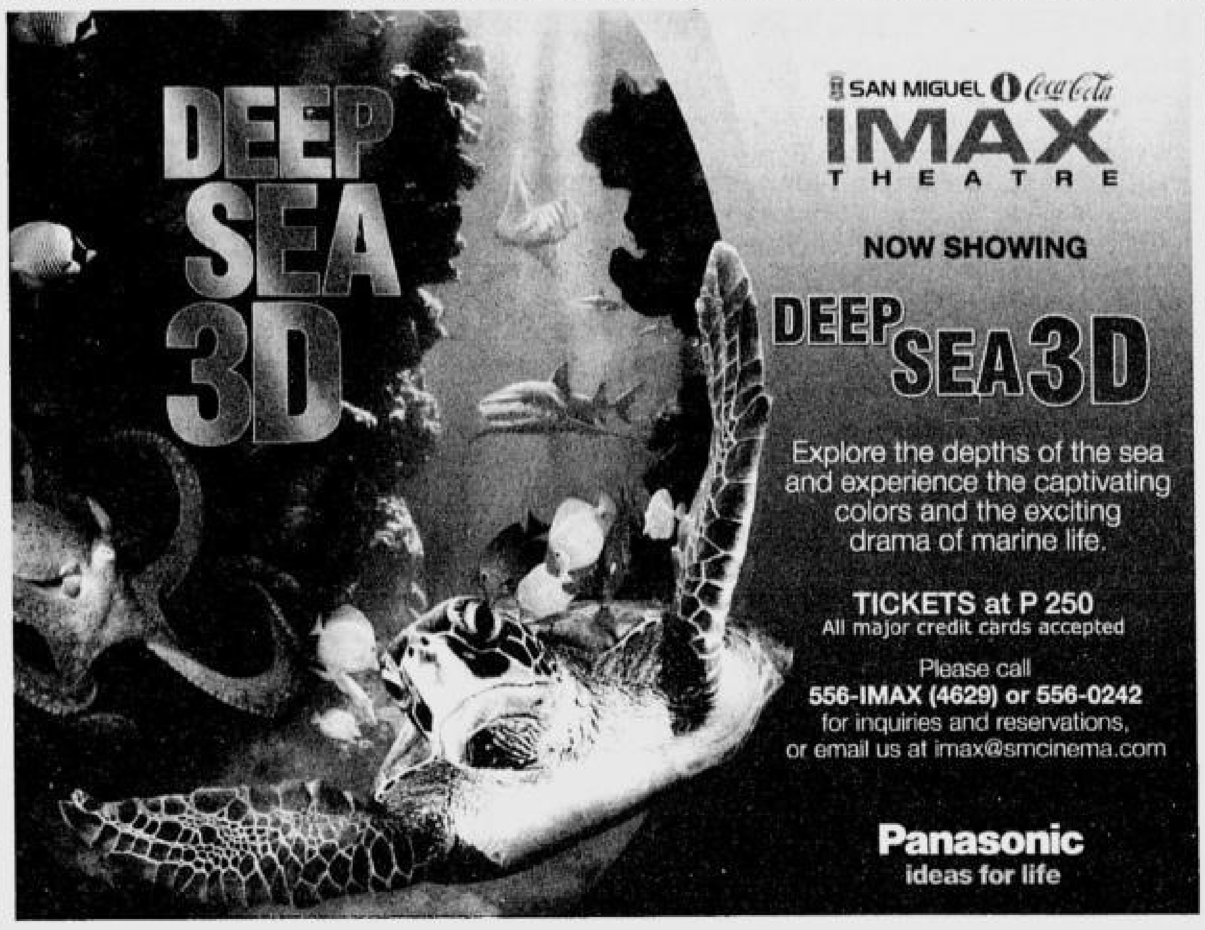

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7 RUSH HOUR 3
8 EVAN ALMIGHTY
9 1408
10 LAST LEGION/ NANCY DREW
11 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
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3 1408
4 GANDHI, MY FATHER
5 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
6 NANCY DREW
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8 DAY WATCH
9 INVASION
10 A LOVE STORY
11 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
12 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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4 SKINWALKERS
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 LAST LEGION
7 1408
8 A LOVE STORY
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY
10 RUSH HOUR 3
11 DISTURBIA
12 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY

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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
2 1408
3 RUSH HOUR 3
4 SKINWALKERS
5 A LOVE STORY
6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
8 NANCY DREW
9 DISTURBIA
10 LAST LEGION

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1 1408
2 DISTURBIA
3 SKINWALKERS
4 NANCY DREW
5 [illegible]
6 A LOVE STORY

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1 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
2 SKINWALKERS
3 1408
4 DAY WATCH
5 A LOVE STORY
6 DISTURBIA
7 NANCY DREW
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
9 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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1 DISTURBIA
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 1408
4 SKINWALKERS

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2 SKINWALKERS
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5 EVAN ALMIGHTY
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8 A LOVE STORY
9 DON'T LOOK BACK
10 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
11 DAY WATCH
12 NANCY DREW

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1 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
2 INVASION
3 BLADES OF GLORY
4 1408

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2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3 INVASION/ SKINWALKERS
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2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 SKINWALKERS
4 DISTURBIA

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1 SKINWALKERS
2 CHOPSUEY
3 1408
4 A LOVE STORY
5 LAST LEGION
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
7 EVAN ALMIGHTY
8 RUSH HOUR 3

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1 1408
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3 RISE
4 A LOVE STORY
5 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
6 SINKING OF JAPAN

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2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
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1 RISE
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 A LOVE STORY
4 SINKING OF JAPAN

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2 RISE
3 OSS 117
4 1408
5 A LOVE STORY
6 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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2 HAIRSPRAY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 RISE

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2 A LOVE STORY
3 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
4 RUSH HOUR 3

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2 1408
3 A LOVE STORY
4 RISE

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1 DAY WATCH
2 SKINWALKERS
3 DISTURBIA
4 NANCY DREW

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1 A LOVE STORY
2 MY KUYA'S WEDDING
3 1408
4 INVASION

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3 A LOVE STORY
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2 BORDER TOWN
3 A LOVE STORY
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY

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6 EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 RESERVED
8 MY KUYA'S WEDDING

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3 RISE
4 EVAN ALMIGHTY
5 RUSH HOUR 3
6 INVASION
7 A LOVE STORY
8 PLANET TERROR

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2	DISTURBIA 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 PG-13	
3	NANCY DREW 1:20, 3:45, 6:10, 8:35, 11:00 G	
4	1408 1:00, 3:20, 5:45 PG-13	CHUCK & LARRY 8:35, 11:00 R-13

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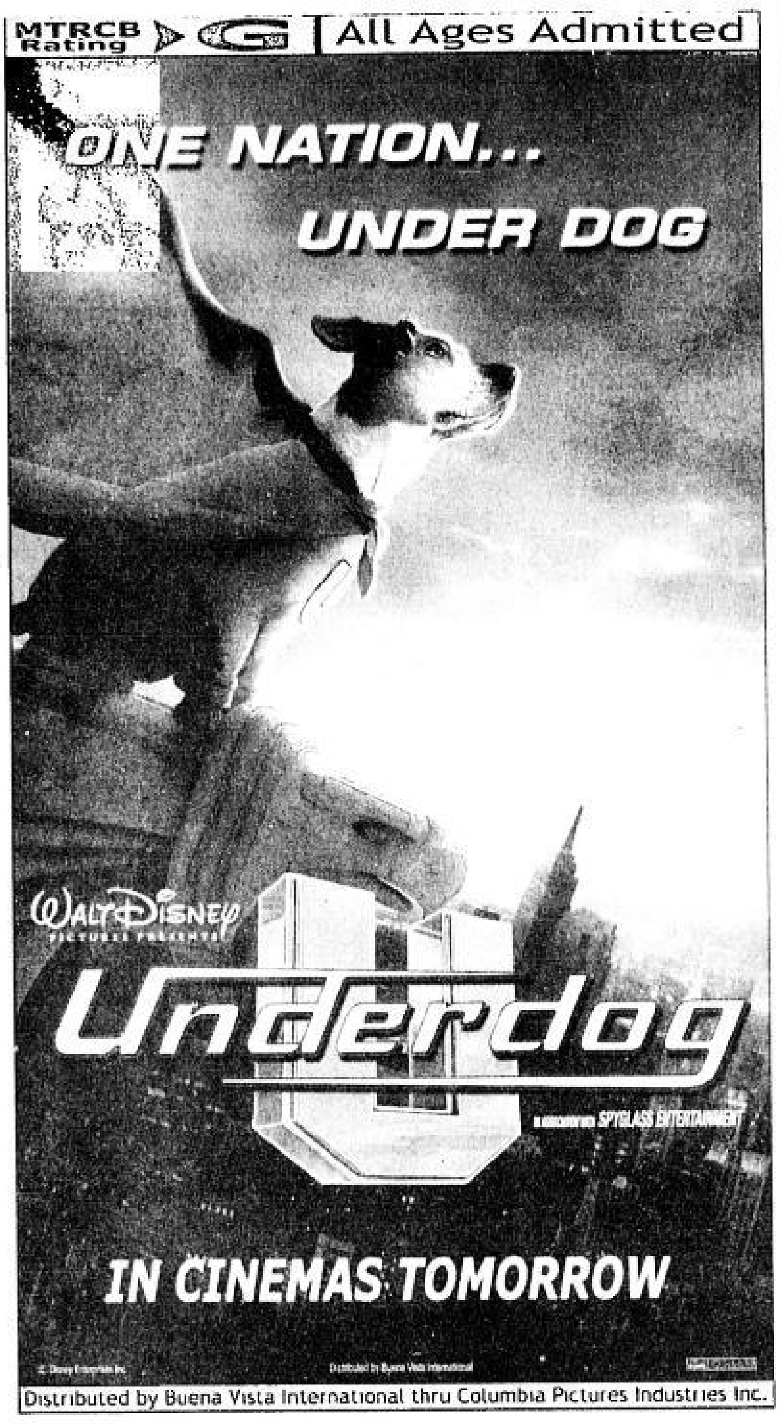
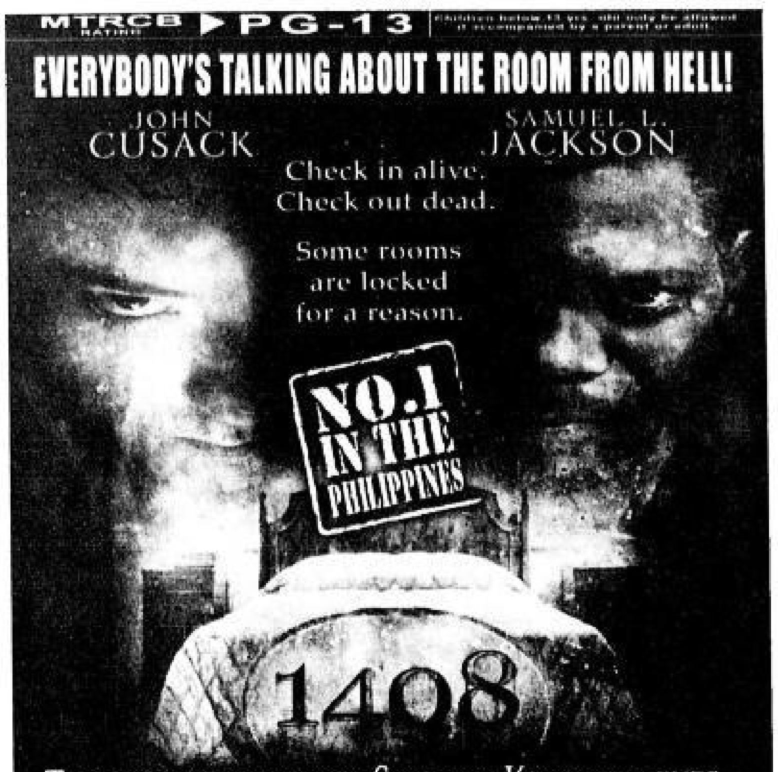


IN CINEMAS TOMORROW

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures Industries Inc.

MTRCB RATING ▶ PG-13

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT THE ROOM FROM HELL!



THE HIGHEST GROSSING STEPHEN KING FILM EVER
NOW SHOWING

POWER PLANT CINEMA

ROCKWELL CENTER, MAKATI TEL: 898-1440/41
DOLBY DIGITAL

DAY WATCH R13 12:00,2:30,5:10,7:50	NANCY DREW G 1:30,3:40,5:50, 8:00,10:10	I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK & LARRY R13 12:50,3:15,5:30, 7:55,10:20
DISTURBIA PG13 12:35,2:55,5:15, 7:35,10:20	SKIN WALKERS R18 1:40,3:50,6:00,8:10	THE INVASION PG13 1:00,3:15

MOVIES & SCHEDULES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

GREENHILLS CINEMAS

GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTER, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA

THEATRE MALL GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Schedule	Rating
1	1408 // THE INVASION	11:50, 2:05, 4:20 // 6:10, 8:20, 10:30	PG-13
2	DAY WATCH	11:50, 2:35, 5:15 7:55, 10:30	R-13

DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

PROMENADE GREENHILLS
...a dinetertainment for all!

NOW SHOWING

Cinema	Movie	Schedule	Rating
3	SKINWALKERS // CHUCK & LARRY	12:55, 3:10 // 5:20 7:45, 10:10	R-13
4	DISTURBIA	11:30, 1:50, 4:10 6:30, 8:50	PG-13
5	NANCY DREW	12:55, 3:10, 5:25 7:40, 10:00	GP

TICKET PRICES & SCREENING TIME SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE. FOR CINEMA INQUIRIES, CALL: 722 4496.

MUSIC MUSEUM

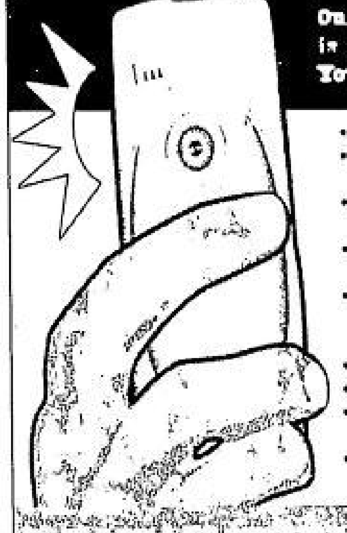
Date	Show	Time
September 15, 2007	Rico J. w/ Ruffa Mae	8:00 PM
September 22, 2007	Jett Pangan, Michael De Mesa, Ricky Davao	8:00 PM
September 29, 2007	Sugarfree	8:00 PM
October 08 & 09, 2007	"Alamat" Stageplay	9:00 A.M. [illegible]

TEATRINO PROMENADE GREENHILLS

Date	Show	Time
Sept. 21, 28, 2007	Drag - Ons	10:00 PM
Sept 12, 19, 26, 2007	Cerrudo Classico	8:00 PM

FOR INQUIRIES PLS. CALL 722-4532 LOC 116

METRO
Citizen's Call



Our City of Affections and Disaffections is made up of stories.
Your stories. Tell us all about it.

- Did a signage make your day?
- Garbage dumped on your street unmake your day?
- Street diggings forever on the street where you live?
- Are you up in arms against the demolition of an ancestral house?
- Awed by a little-known barangay project with a big positive impact in your community?
- Got stuck in potholes?
- Fed up with cussing and feuding neighbors?
- Is there an everyday role model in your neighborhood?
- Delightful/dreadful finds on your way to work?

JUST TEXT SMS: ccall name/age/location <message>
MMS: <insert photo> ccall name/age/location <caption/message>

[illegible]

P.S. Please don't send tips on criminal activities and crime. Call the police.

INQUIRER

AT THE CINEMAS

THX

Reserve your tickets by texting SURESEATS GB3 or SURESEATS G4 to 2333 (Globe) or 211 (Smart) or log on to www.sureseats.com for web reservations.
Movie schedules may change without prior notice. For verification, please call 729-7777

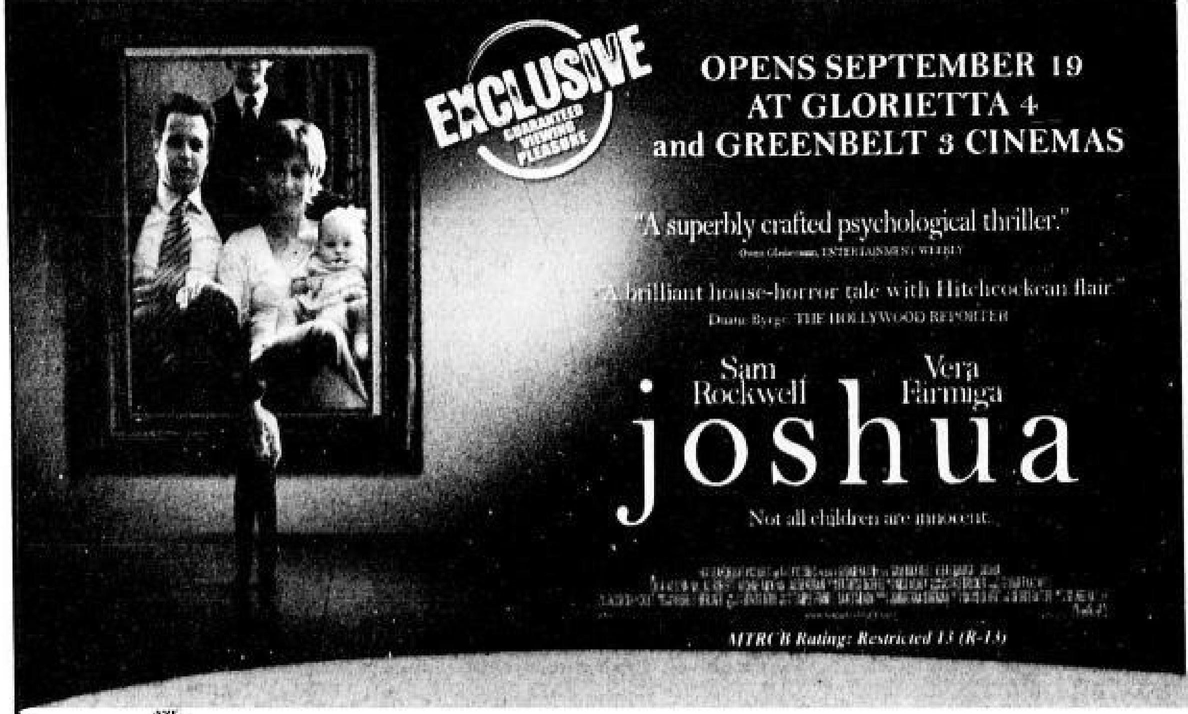
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
GLORIETTA 1	CHOPSUEY	DISTURBIA	NANCY DREW	A LOVE STORY			
GLORIETTA 4	DAYWATCH	SKINWALKERS	THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	ARE WE DONE YET?	THE INVASION	NANCY DREW	1408
GREENBELT 1	DAYWATCH	NANCY DREW					
GREENBELT 3	THX NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS	THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS	HAIRSPRAY GUARANTEED SEATS	EVAN ALMIGHTY GUARANTEED SEATS	DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS		
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	THX DISTURBIA	NANCY DREW	DAYWATCH	THE INVASION	SKINWALKERS		
AYALA CENTER CEBU	PAN'S LABYRINTH	PLANET TERROR	RISE	THE INVASION			
MARKET! MARKET!	CHOPSUEY	SKINWALKERS	NANCY DREW	DISTURBIA	DAYWATCH		
TRINOMA • THX Certified • All-Digital Sound • All-Stadium Seating • Computerized Ticketing System • Recliner Seats	EVAN ALMIGHTY	SKINWALKERS	DAYWATCH GUARANTEED SEATS	NANCY DREW GUARANTEED SEATS	CHOPSUEY	1408	THX DISTURBIA GUARANTEED SEATS

AT THE MALLS

CONCIERGE HOTLINE NUMBERS:
Glorietta - 752 7272
Greenbelt - 757 4853 to 54
Alabang Town Center - 842 2782; 772 1860
Ayala Center Cebu - (032) 231 5342 loc. 324
Market! Market! - 886 7519
TriNoma - 901 3000

Ayala Malls

Mall	Event
glorietta	NREA - Housing Fair September 10 & 11, 2007 at the Glorietta Activity Center
GREENBELT	Jazz Nights September 12, 2007 at GB 2 Al Fresco
ALABANG TOWN CENTER	Anson's Exhibit September 1 to 16, 2007 at the Activity Center
AYALA CENTER CEBU	Elliot Yamin of American Idol Live! September 26; 6 PM; OnStage (Cinema 1)
MARKET! MARKET!	Lactum Mall Show September 8 & 9, 2007 at the Activity Center
Greenbelt OnStage	Repertory Philippines presents Disney's CINDERELLA Kids at REP's Globe Theater - Opens August 11, 2007 For inquiries, pls. call 887-0710
Ayala MUSEUM	Antiquerios: Homage to my Kasimanwas August 28 to September 10, 2007 For more info, pls. call 757-7117 to 21 loc. 14 or email museum_inquiry@ayalamuseum.org
TriNoma	Samsung Exhibit An exhibit of the latest Samsung mobile phones September 14 to 16; 10am to 9 pm; Starbucks / Food Choices Level 2



OPENS SEPTEMBER 19
AT GLORIETTA 4
and GREENBELT 3 CINEMAS

"A superbly crafted psychological thriller."
Owen Gleiberman, ENTERTAINMENT WEEKLY

"A brilliant house-horror tale with Hitchcockean flair."
Duane Byrge, THE HOLLYWOOD REPORTER

Sam Rockwell
Vera Farmiga

joshua

Not all children are innocent.

MTRCB Rating: Restricted 13 (R-13)

THE GREAT SPORTS OUTLET SALE

SEPT. 10-16
MARKET! MARKET!
ACTIVITY CENTER

adidas
SPORTS DEPOT
FILA • THE NORTH FACE • AND1 • L.A. GEAR

Reva • Puma • Jansport • Diadora
Converse • Champion • Accel • Avia

PER DTI-NCR PERMIT NO. A2-317, SERIES OF 2007

glorietta GREENBELT ALABANG TOWN CENTER AYALA CENTER CEBU MARKET! MARKET! TriNoma

MMTA
METRO MANILA
THEATERS ASSOCIATION
MOVIE GUIDE
NOW SHOWING

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
2 (DOLBY) I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY
3 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
4 (DOLBY) DAY WATCH
PREMIERE
(DOLBY) EVAN ALMIGHTY
HAIRSPRAY

CINEMA 2000
Cinema 2000 Waltermart Makati
Waltermart Center, Chino Roces Ave. cor. Antonio Arnaiz Pio del Pilar, Makati City
Tel 816.4214 / 816.4216
1 INVATION /CHUCK & LARRY
2 DISTURBIA
3 NANCY DREW
4 SKINWALKERS

starmall EDSA-SHAW
(Mandaluyong) tel. 7266150
3 LAST LEGION
4 DOLBY DIGITAL BOURNE ULTIMATUM
5 RESERVED

metropolis star cinema
www.clickthecity.com.ph
(ALABANG) tel. 8504285, 5433984
1 A LOVE STORY
2 DISTURBIA
3 DAY WATCH
4 SKINWALKERS

THEATRES
Telephone No. (044) 600-3005
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 PLANET TERROR

PACIFIC MALL LUCENA CINEMAGIC
Pacific Mall Lucena Tel: (042) 660-6271
1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Filinvest FESTIVAL CINEMA
(Muntinlupa) tel 850.3571 or 72
1 (DOLBY) 1408
2 (SDDS) DISTURBIA
3 (DTS) NANCY DREW
4 CHUCK & LARRY (SNEAK PREVIEW)
5 GOLD (DOLBY) SKINWALKERS
6 GOLD (SDDS) EVAN ALMIGHTY
7 GOLD (DOLBY) DAY WATCH
8 MY KUYAS WEDDING
9 A LOVE STORY
10 RUSH HOUR - 3

Blue Wave MARIKINA
Sumulong Highway cor. Mayor Gil Fernando Street, Sto. Niño, Marikina City tel. 9341927
1 (DOLBY) A LOVE STORY
2 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
3 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY) PLEASE CALL

SUPER CINERAMA
Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
tel 7334228
1 (DOLBY) RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 MY KUYAS WEDDING
5 DAY WATCH

MARKETPLACE
Mandaluyong
tel 533.3851 / 533.3856
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 EVAN ALMIGHTY
3 A LOVE STORY
4 DIN'T LOOK BACK

Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3290 / 833.3274
1 SKINWALKERS
2 DISTURBIA
3 MY KUYAS WEDDING

Center Mall Cinema
Baguio Center Mall, Magsaysay Avenue (Baguio City) tel (074)- (4449346)
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 PLANET TERROR

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03
1 RISE
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 SINKING JAPAN
4 THREE

Centre Plaza Cinema
(Balanga, Bataan) tel (047) 237.7007
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING

EASTWOOD CINEMAS
(Eastwood City Walk 2, Eastwood City E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave (C-5) Quezon City) tel 687.6963 or 72
1 (DOLBY) DAY WATCH
2 (DOLBY) DISTURBIA
3 (DOLBY) NANCY DREW
4 (DOLBY) 1408 / CHUCK & LARRY

CINEMA 2000
Movie Theatres of the New Millenium

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383
1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 1408
3 RUSH HOUR - 3
4

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel. (049) 4111146
1 RESERVED
2 RESERVED
3 RESERVED
4 RESERVED

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 MY KUYAS WEDDING
3 RUSH HOUR - 3

Cinema 2000 Metrotown
(Tarlac) tel (045) 982.1729
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 A LOVE STORY
3 EVAN ALMIGHTY
4 LICENSE TO WED

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Plaridel) tel (044) 795.3320
1 1408
2 RUSH HOUR - 3
3 MY KUYAS WEDDING

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Gapan) tel. (044) 4867738
1 MY KUYAS WEDDING
2 RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas Cinema
(Pasig) tel 640.4748
1 RUSH HOUR - 3
2 A LOVE STORY

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 MASARAP NA PUGAD
3 SARIWA
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202
1 SINKING JAPAN
2 TAGINIT
3 1408
4 KAPAG DUMIKIT KUMAKAPIT
5 RUSH HOUR - 3

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790
1 EVAN ALMIGHTY
2 A LOVE STORY
3 RISE BLOOD HUNTER
4 RUSH HOUR - 3

Berma Cinema
(Baclaran) tel 879.2030 / 879.2029
1 PLEASE CALL
2 PLEASE CALL

MOVIES / SCHEDULES / PRICES SUBJECT TO CHANGE WITHOUT PRIOR NOTICE

Going by 'brand names' in the biz

MOST SHOW BIZ PEOPLE have to "sell" themselves every time they perform in public. But there are a few stars and production companies that have so consistently delighted viewers and listeners that they have become "brand names" that are regularly patronized by members of the entertainment audience, who "know" from past experience that they'll probably get their money's worth once more.

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

For entertainers, that kind of viewer confidence is money in the bank, so those who enjoy it do their best to retain it.

In film production, some producers have conceded to us that the studio that enjoys the most viewer confidence these days is Star Cinema. That's why, they say, even if a new movie produced by the company is relatively weak, it still does better than most other productions.

Star Cinema focuses specifically on female moviegoers, so quite a number of its films are melodrama or romantic comedies. Even better for the studio, they're "date" movies, so female viewers' boyfriends or husbands watch them, too—effectively doubling the productions' grosses.

Savvy move

Recently, Star Cinema has also been successful in the area of youth films. This is a savvy move, since the country's population is dominated by young people, thus assuring a large audience for the studio's kiddie or teen flicks.

Viewers also generally like Star Cinema's movies for their good production values, a reputation which the studio strives to maintain.

In the field of television, "Maalala Mo Kaya?" used to be a brand name for years—until "Magpakailanman" diminished its ratings advantage.

These days, the surviving female "brand name" on TV is **Sharon Cuneta**, who still has a weekly show, even after many years on the tube. Her male counterpart is **Joey de Leon**, who currently has six different shows each week!

Among singers, **Basil Valdez** is definitely a brand name. He performs only occasionally, but his fans support him every time he steps out of semi-retirement. The same goes for comedienne **Tessie Tomas**, who doesn't perform as often as she should these days, but still enjoys her fans' loyal patronage.

Many Filipino talents have been showcased by the "Miss Saigon" musical in different parts of the world, but it's **Leo Valdez** who is the "brand name" among them, since he's still playing The Engineer, after more than a decade's involvement in different stagings of the hit production.

Spicy combination

On the live performing scene, fans who like a spicy combination of singing and sexy jokes make a beeline for **Rico J. Puno**'s many shows. To them, he embodies the "for adults mostly" entertainment that's preferred by the over-40 crowd.

Most action superstars have been put out to pasture, but **Robin Padilla** still does the occasional actioner, even if it's only on TV. He remains a brand name in the field of action because of his unique "bad boy" image.

When it comes to exceptional acting, **Nora Aunor** and **Vilma Santos** used to be the brand names, but they haven't been seen on the big screen for quite a while, so their "crown" has been handed down to **Cherry Pie Picache**, whose outstanding portrayals in movies like "Kaleldo" and "Foster Child" have been consistently impressing lovers of good acting on local screens.

Other "brand names" in the biz include **Mitch Valdes, Edu Manzano, Willie Nepomuceno, Johnny Delgado, Martin Nievera, Gary V.**, and directors **Chito Roño** and **Joyce Bernal**.

'Chick Flicks' on HBO

SATURDAYS AND SUNDAYS OF SEPTEMber are "Chick Flicks" nights at 9 on HBO.

On Sept. 15, Julia Roberts is a conniving lady in the amusing "My Best Friend's Wedding." Julianne (Roberts) falls in love with her best friend just days before his wedding but instead of stepping aside graciously, she tries everything to stop the ceremony.

Airing on Sept. 22 is "Just Like Heaven," a romantic comedy starring Reese Witherspoon as Elizabeth, who is adamant that her apartment is still hers despite a new tenant claiming the place. What she doesn't realize is that she has been into a deep coma after a tragic accident.

Vince Vaughn and Jennifer Aniston make a dashing pair in the comedy "The Break-up" on Sept. 23. After two years of being together, Gary (Vaughn) and Brooke (Aniston) suddenly find themselves pushed to the limits by their differences and confronted with the decision of calling it quits.

KATE Hudson with Owen Wilson and Matt Dillon in "You, Me and Dupree"

SHANG CINEPLEX
1 NANCY DREW MTRCB GP 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
2 I NOW PRONOUNCE YOU CHUCK AND LARRY MTRCB R-13 12:00, 2:30 5:00, 7:30, 10:00
3 DISTURBIA MTRCB PG-13 12:20, 2:45, 5:10, 7:35, 10:00
4 DAY WATCH MTRCB: R-13 1:20, 4:10, 7:05, 10:00
PREMIERE THEATRE EVAN ALMIGHTY (GP) 1:20, 3:30 / HAIRSPRAY (GP) 6:00, 8:30
Movies and schedules are subject to change without prior notice
Catch the Cineplex Special
A Blockbuster Gift for all Season
The Shang Cineplex Gift Certificates
Treat your family and friends to a thrilling movie experience only at the shang.
Cinema Treats- for Cinemas 1, 2, 3, and 4
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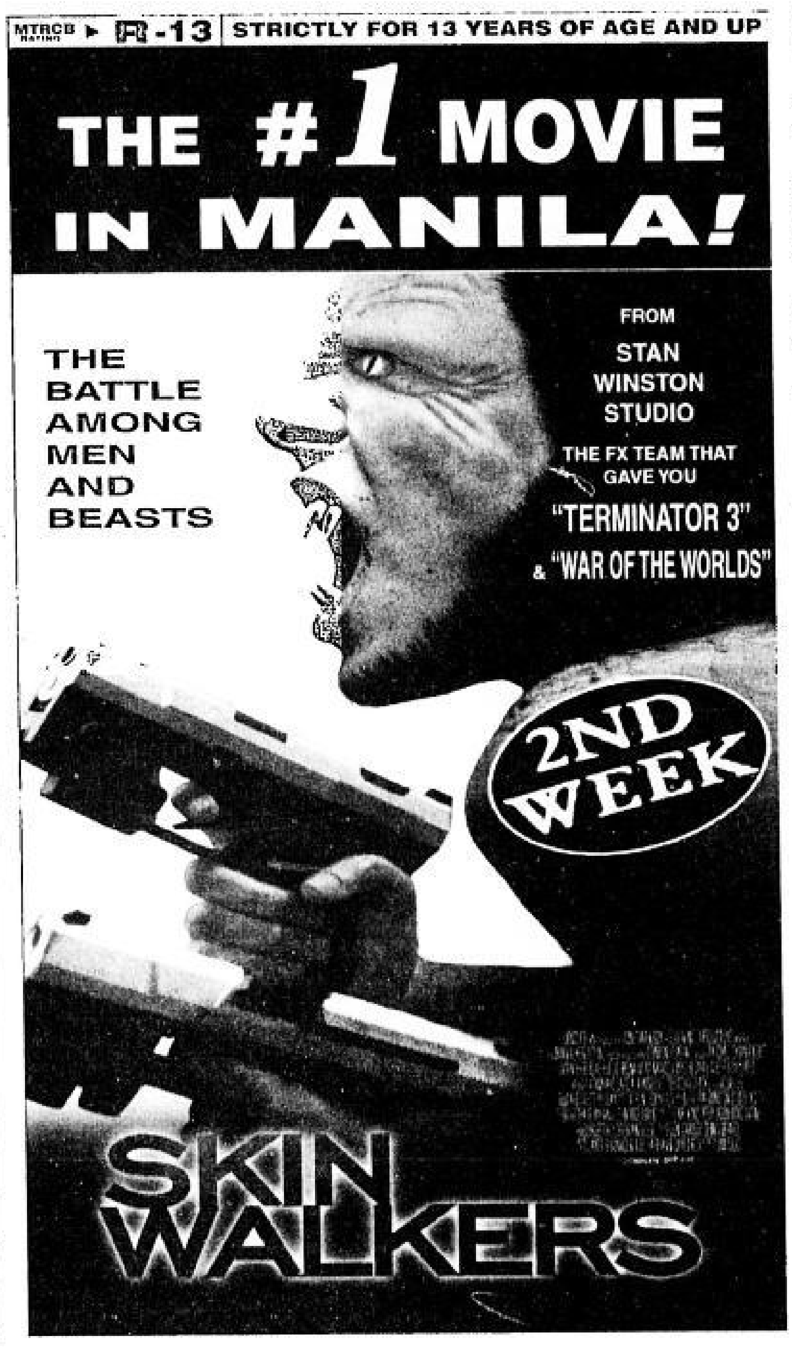
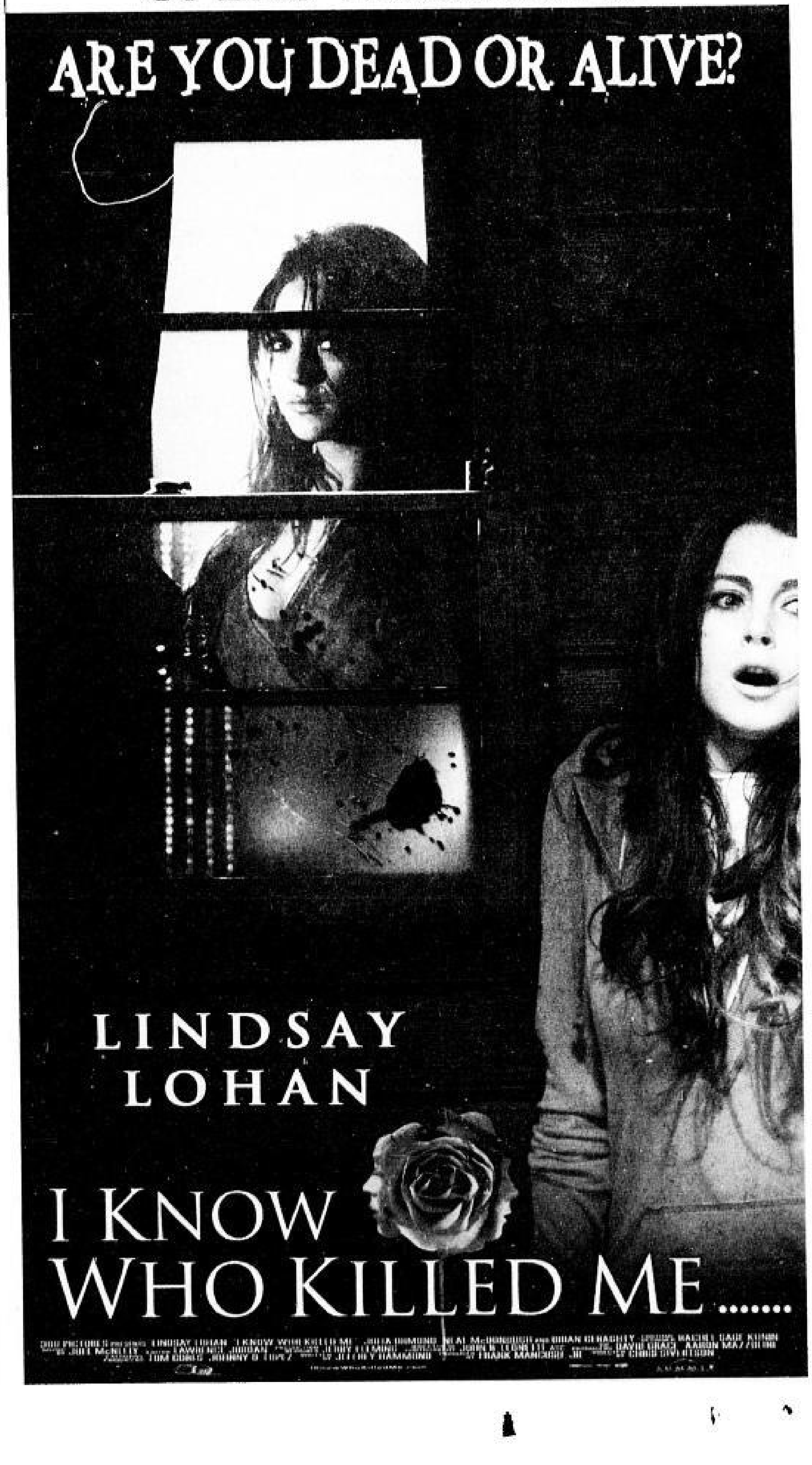
6th floor, Shangri-La Plaza Mall
EDSA corner Shaw Blvd., Mandaluyong City
Call 633-7851, loc 171/ 170 or 633-2227 for more details.
Shangri-La Plaza


MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YEARS OF AGE AND UP
THE #1 MOVIE IN MANILA!
THE BATTLE AMONG MEN AND BEASTS
FROM STAN WINSTON STUDIO
THE FX TEAM THAT GAVE YOU "TERMINATOR 3" & "WAR OF THE WORLDS"
2ND WEEK
SKINWALKERS

OPENS TOMORROW
MTRCB RATING R-13 STRICTLY FOR 13 YRS. OLD AND ABOVE
HOW MANY WRONGS TO MAKE IT RIGHT?
JODIE FOSTER
THE BRAVE ONE
WARNER BROS. PICTURES PRESENTS IN ASSOCIATION WITH VILLAGE ROADSHOW PICTURES A SILVER PICTURES PRODUCTION A NEIL JORDAN FILM JODIE FOSTER "THE BRAVE ONE" TERRENCE HOWARD NAVEEN ANDREWS NICKY KATT MARY STEENBURGEN MUSIC BY DARIO MARIANELLI FILM EDITOR TONY LAWSON A.C.E. PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY KRISTI ZEA DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY PHILIPPE ROUSSELOT A.F.C./A.S.C. EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS HERBERT W. GAINS JODIE FOSTER DANA GOLDBERG AND BRUCE BERMAN STORY BY RODERICK TAYLOR & BRUCE A. TAYLOR SCREENPLAY BY RODERICK TAYLOR & BRUCE A. TAYLOR AND CYNTHIA MORT PRODUCED BY JOEL SILVER SUSAN DOWNEY DIRECTED BY NEIL JORDAN
www.thebraveonemovie.co.uk


OPENS TOMORROW
ARE YOU DEAD OR ALIVE?
LINDSAY LOHAN
I KNOW WHO KILLED ME.......